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THE ARMY.

WAR DEPARTMENT.

W. W. Belknap, Secretary of War.

Brigadier-General E. D. Townsend, Adjutant-General.

WASHINGTON, April 14, 1873.

General Orders No. 50.

By direction of the President, Colonel Jefferson C. Davis, Twenty-third Infantry, is assigned to command the Department of the Columbia, vice Brigadier-General Canby, deceased.

He will proceed without delay to his post.
By order of the Acting Secretary of War.

E. D. TOWNSEND, Adjutant-General.

ABSTRACT OF SPECIAL ORDERS

Issued from the Adjutant-General's Office for the week ending April 14, 1873.

Wednesday, April 9.

On the recommendation of the Surgeon-General, the following changes in the stations of officers of the Medical Department are made: Assistant Surgeon Robert H. White is relieved from duty in the Department of the South, and will report in person to the commanding general Department of the Lakes for assignment to duty; Assistant Surgeon Joseph K. Corson will report in person to the commanding general Department of the South for assignment to duty.

The leave of absence granted First Lieutenant M. W. Saxton, Twenty-fourth Infantry, in Special Orders No. 200, November 7, 1872, from headquarters Department of Texas, is extended five months.

The leave of absence on surgeon's certificate of disability granted First Lieutenant H. S. Weeks, Eighth Cavalry, in Special Orders No. 45, March 27, 1873, from headquarters Department of the Missouri, is extended five months on surgeon's certificate of disability.

The leave of absence granted First Lieutenant J. D. Stevenson, Eighth Cavalry, in Special Orders No. 66, April 1, 1873, from headquarters Mounted Recruiting Service, St. Louis depot, Missouri, is extended seven days.

Leave of absence for six months, with permission to go beyond sea, is granted the following named officers: Captain Robert P. Wilson, Tenth Infantry; Second Lieutenant Henry B. Chamberlain, Tenth Infantry; First Lieutenant John Whitney, Eleventh Infantry.

Special Orders No. 47, paragraph 2, March 6, 1873, from this office, directing that recruit Patrick O'Hern, Mounted Service U. S. Army, be discharged the service of the United States, is revoked.

Discharged.—Sergeants David A. Daboll, Jr., and John Martin, General Service U. S. Army; Private Harvey L. Nicholls, Battery L, Fifth Artillery.

Thursday, April 10.

Sergeant Henry W. Howard, Battery K, Third Artillery, having completed the duty assigned him by Special Orders No. 26, April 9, 1873, from headquarters Fort Wadsworth, New York harbor, will return with his guard to his station at Fort Wadsworth without unnecessary delay.

Transferred.—On the mutual application of the officers concerned, the following transfers are announced: Lieutenant-Colonel E. A. Carr, from the Fourth Cavalry to the Fifth Cavalry; Lieutenant-Colonel John P. Hatch, from the Fifth Cavalry to the Fourth Cavalry.

Discharged.—Corporal William H. Green, Company F, Ninth Infantry; Private Frederick Leonard, Company I, Seventh Cavalry; Second Class Private Charles Martin, Ordnance Detachment U. S. Army; Private Samuel Rauch, Light Battery C, Third Artillery; by direction of the President, Private James D. Vernet, Company C, First Cavalry.

Friday, April 11.

The authority given in telegram of the 10th instant, from this office, to the superintendent Mounted Recruiting Service to forward all disposable colored cavalry recruits at St. Louis depot, Missouri, to Fort Gibson, Indian Territory, for assignment to the Tenth Cavalry, is confirmed.

On receipt of this order, Hospital Steward William C. Bryan, U. S. Army (recently appointed from Company G, Fourth Infantry), will proceed to headquarters Department of the Platte and report to the commanding general of that department for assignment to duty.

Discharged.—First Class Private Thomas Butler, Ordnance Detachment U. S. Army.

Saturday, April 12.

Sergeant John Reilly, Company D, Second Infantry, having completed the duty assigned him by Special Orders No. 26, April 9, 1873, from headquarters post of Spartanburg, South Carolina, will return to his station at Spartanburg without unnecessary delay.

Discharged.—Second Class Private Thomas Cook, Ordnance Detachment U. S. Army; Hospital Steward Ephraim Polly, U. S. Army; by direction of the President, Private Robert H. Chapin, Company A, Sixth Infantry.

Transferred.—On his own application, approved by the regimental commander, Captain William P. Graves, Second Artillery, is transferred from Battery D to Battery C of that regiment.

On the recommendation of the Surgeon-General, Assistant Surgeon Washington Matthews is relieved from duty at Willett's Point, New York harbor, and will report in person to the commanding general Department of the East for assignment to duty.

Casualties among the Commissioned Officers of the U. S. Army reported to the Adjutant-General's Office during the week ending Saturday, April 12, 1873.

Major John S. Walker, paymaster—Lost at sea on voyage from Sitka, by wreck of steamer *George S. Wright*, January 27, 1873, (supposed.)

First Lieutenant Henry C. Dodge, Second Artillery—Lost at sea on voyage from Sitka, by wreck of steamer *George S. Wright*, January 27, 1873, (supposed.)

Second Lieutenant Frank E. Nye, Second Cavalry—Resigned April 10, 1873.

Assistant Surgeon Thomas McMillin—Died April 6, 1873, in the Modoc country.

CHANGES OF STATIONS.

The following is a list of the changes of stations of troops reported at the War Department since last report:

Company M, Fourth Cavalry, from Fort Brown, Tex., to Fort Duncan, Tex.

Company C, Ninth Cavalry, from Fort Duncan, Tex., to Ringgold Barracks, Tex.

Company L, Ninth Cavalry, from Fort McIntosh, Tex., to Ringgold Barracks, Tex.

Companies D, F, and I, Ninth Infantry, from Fort D. A. Russell, W. T., to Omaha Barracks, Neb.

Company H, Ninth Infantry, from Fort Sanders, W. T., to Omaha Barracks, Neb.

Company F, Twenty-fourth Infantry, from Fort Duncan, Tex., to Fort McIntosh, Tex.

Company D, Twenty-fourth Infantry, from Fort McIntosh, Tex., to Fort Duncan, Tex.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY.

W. T. Sherman, General of the Army of the United States.

Colonel W. D. Whipple, Assistant Adjutant-General.

The leave of absence for sixty days granted Captain E. W. Clift, Thirtieth Infantry, in Special Orders No. 35, of 1873, from headquarters Military Division of the Missouri, was extended April 15 thirty days on surgeon's certificate of disability. (S. O. No. 20.)

The leave of absence for thirty days granted to First Lieutenant W. H. Beck, Tenth Cavalry, in Special Orders No. 56, from headquarters Department of Texas, dated March 20, 1873, was extended April 15 three months. (S. O. No. 20.)

MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI.

Lieutenant-Gen. P. H. Sheridan: Headquarters Chicago, Ill.

DEPARTMENT OF DAKOTA.

Brigadier-General Alfred H. Terry: Headquarters, St. Paul, Minn.

Captain J. H. Gilman, U. S. Army, chief commissary of subsistence of the Department, April 4 was ordered to Sioux City, Iowa, on public business connected with the Subsistence Department, on completion of which he will rejoin his proper station.

The commanding officer of Fort Stevenson, D. T., April 5 was directed to cause the two rifled Rodman guns at that post, together with all the implements, equipments and ammunition for the same, to be sent by boat, the first opportunity, to Fort Rice. These guns will be held in readiness for service with the contemplated Yellowstone Expedition, and subject to the orders of the commanding officer thereof. The commanding officer of Fort Rice, D. T., at the same time was directed to cause one Napoleon gun at that post, together with implements, equipments and ammunition for the same, to be sent by boat, the first opportunity, to Fort Stevenson, D. T.

The Yellowstone Expedition.—Colonel D. S. Stanley, Twenty-second Infantry, commanding Middle District, March 31 was authorized to cause seventy-five Indian scouts to be enlisted into the military service of the United States, for duty with the contemplated Yellowstone Expedition, to leave Fort Rice, D. T., in June next. They will be enlisted and mustered under their Indian names in full, as well as the English interpretation of them, as cavalry soldiers, and will receive the pay and allowances now granted by law to privates in the regular service. Each scout enlisted will be required to furnish his own horse, for the use of which, in military service, he will be allowed a compensation of forty cents per diem. Colonel Stanley will detail an officer to command them, who will be held responsible, and render the required returns for all public property and stores issued for the use of the detachment. Uniform clothing will not be issued unless the scouts desire to wear it. Upon the return of the expedition, the commanding officer of the Middle District will retain in the service those scouts who desire to remain, and distribute them according to his discretion among the posts in his district. To such as prefer to quit the service, he will grant the necessary discharges.

Seventeenth Infantry.—A General Court-martial was appointed to meet at Fort Rice, D. T., April 24. The following officers of the Seventeenth Infantry were detailed for the court: Colonel T. L. Crittenden; Captains E. P. Pearson, C. E. Bennett, Malcolm McArthur, W. M. Van Horne; First Lieutenants L. M. O'Brien, F. D. Garrett, W. P. Rogers; Second Lieutenants D. H. Brush, Alexander Ogle, Charles Metcalfe. First Lieutenant Horatio Potter, Jr., judge-advocate.

Second Lieutenant C. P. McTaggart (now on sick leave), Company E, Grand River Agency, D. T., has been promoted first lieutenant, same company, vice

Northup, deceased. A. A. Surgeon P. R. Brown, U. S. Army, April 2 was ordered to Fort Snelling, Minn., for temporary duty.

Seventh Infantry.—Upon the arrival of the Seventh Cavalry at Yankton, D. T., Assistant Surgeon Elliott Cones, U. S. Army, was ordered thence from Fort Randall, and transfer to the senior medical officer on duty with the regiment, all medical supplies intended for its use. Assistant Surgeon J. P. Kimball, U. S. Army, April 2 was ordered to Yankton, D. T., for duty upon the Yellowstone Expedition.

On the arrival of the Seventh Cavalry at Sioux City, Iowa, en route to Yankton, D. T., the two companies of the regiment designated for service with the escort for the International Northern Boundary Survey, April 1 were ordered to be stopped and put en route via the Sioux City and St. Paul Railroad to Fort Snelling, Minn., where, upon arrival, they will be placed in camp, awaiting further instructions from these headquarters for their future guidance. The colonel of the regiment was to accompany in command of the detachment, and after placing the companies properly in camp at Fort Snelling, he was ordered to repair to St. Paul, Minn., and establish his headquarters temporarily. The adjutant of the regiment was to accompany the colonel, and the regimental quartermaster and band to remain on duty with the other ten companies of the regiment.

Payment of Troops.—Major William Smith, paymaster U. S. Army, April 5 was directed to make payments to April 30, of the troops stationed at Fort Abraham Lincoln, Camp Hancock, and Forts Stevenson and Buford, D. T. On completion of the payments, Major William Smith, will repair to St. Paul, Minn., and take station until further orders. Major G. W. Candee, paymaster U. S. Army, at same time was directed to make payments to April 30, of the troops stationed at Fort Randall, Lower Brule Agency, Fort Sully, Cheyenne and Grand River Agencies, and Fort Rice, D. T.

Seventh Cavalry.—The ten companies of the Seventh Cavalry, intended for service on the contemplated Yellowstone Expedition, to leave Fort Rice, D. T., in June next, and now en route to Yankton, D. T., will march April 25, unless orders to the contrary are given in the meantime, via Forts Randall and Sully for Fort Rice.

DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI.

Brigadier-General John Pope: Headquarters, Fort Leavenworth.

A. A. Surgeon R. H. McKay, U. S. Army, April 8 was relieved from duty in southeastern Kansas, and ordered to Fort Garland, C. T., for duty. Upon the departure of the troops from southeastern Kansas, as directed by par. 1, S. O. No. 49, c. s., from department headquarters, A. A. Surgeon A. J. Gray, U. S. Army, will proceed to Camp Supply, I. T., for duty.

Eighth Cavalry.—Leave of absence for thirty days, on surgeon's certificate of disability, was granted First Lieutenant G. F. Foote, April 8.

Sixth Cavalry.—Troop E, and Company B, Fifth U. S. Infantry, stationed in southeastern Kansas, April 5 were ordered to proceed, (the latter company by rail) to Fort Gibson, I. T., in time to reach that post on or before the 20th proximo, and there take post. Fort Scott will be given up and the records of the post, carefully arranged and boxed, will be shipped by rail to department headquarters. A. A. Surgeon J. J. Marston, U. S. Army, will accompany the troops to Fort Gibson, I. T.

The Colonel of the Sixth U. S. Cavalry, upon his arrival at the camp of his regiment, near Fort Hays, Kansas, April 9 was ordered to detach two troops of his command, with orders to march, via Fort Larned, Kansas, to a convenient point about twenty-five miles west or south-west of Wichita, where they will go into camp for the summer. The two troops thus posted will scout along the southern line of Kansas. They will be considered on active field service, and will take nothing with them but what is necessary for such service. In addition to the command of the camp near Fort Hays, the Colonel will also command this camp, and will visit it by rail as frequently as may be necessary. He is authorized to alternate the troops at this camp with the troops at the camp near Fort Hays whenever he deems it proper, being careful that at no time must the force pertaining to this camp be less than two troops.

First Lieutenant William Harper, Jr., April 9 was relieved from duty as member of the G. C.-M. convened at Fort Riley, Kansas, by par. 2, S. O. No. 208, series of 1872, from department headquarters. Captain W. A. Elderkin, S. D. U. S. Army, is detailed as member of the G. C.-M. convened at Fort Garland, C. T., by par. 1, S. O. No. 21, c. s., from department headquarters.

Fifteenth Infantry.—Second Lieutenant H. P. Sherman has been promoted first lieutenant, vice Blair, appointed regimental adjutant, which carries him to Company F.

Fifth Infantry.—From Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, April 5, 1873, a correspondent writes: "The commanding officer of this post, General N. A. Miles, Fifth Infantry, being convinced that in order to hold its own in this age of activity and improvement, the Army must be quick to see and ready to utilize every valuable idea planned, and has put in operation a system of gymnastic exercise for this garrison, which has proved itself so valuable that no one could see its working and doubt that it ought to be adopted at every post in the country."

"With only the labor of enlisted men of the command one unoccupied cavalry stable was converted into a very gymnasium, and furnished with the greater part of the fixtures and implements usually found in such institutions. Before the instruction commenced, all of the men of the garrison were subjected to a critical physical ex-

amination at the hands of the medical officers, and then all who were not excused were instructed daily by their company officers, under the personal supervision of the post commander. That which was first taken up as a task and bunglingly executed, has become a daily exhibition of strength and agility, combined with grace and skill which is apparently as pleasant to the actors as to the spectators. After about three months' practice the men were examined by the medical officers again, and with a knowledge of the results of both examinations as well as of the sanitary condition of the garrison before and since the gymnasium drill was adopted. Assistant Surgeon W. E. Waters, U. S. Army, post surgeon, makes the following remark in his quarterly sanitary report for first quarter of current year, viz:

"I should have mentioned in the last sanitary report the starting of a gymnasium with all the fixtures and appliances that pertain to such establishments. In December it was brought into use, and throughout the winter all the men of the garrison, except those who have been in the Army more than fifteen years, and such as have been excused by the surgeon for physical disqualification, have been required to practice daily under the observation and direction of the company officers. The effect upon the soldiers has been good mentally, morally and physically, and it is particularly fitting that this feature should have been introduced during last winter, when drills were impracticable from the severity of the weather. In my opinion the men have enjoyed better health in consequence of this systematic exercise, while there has been improvement in their physique and capacity for their laborious duty. This practice has been required in addition to the customary drills, bayonet exercise, etc., and it has been the especial aim to select such exercise as would tend to render the men more enduring and efficient soldiers. The good effects are seen in every movement on or off duty; in solid, well-developed muscle, increased breathing capacity, active movement—in a word—robust health. CINQUIEME."

One company of the Fifth U. S. Infantry at Fort Larned, to be designated by the post commander, will march to Fort Dodge on the 1st of May, and report to the commanding officer of that post for service during the summer along the line of the A. T. and S. F. Railroad west of Fort Dodge; the small detachments to be posted permanently at particular points along the line of the railroad will be furnished from the garrison of Fort Dodge as soon as the railroad company furnishes the necessary buildings for occupation. A. A. Surgeon A. T. Fitch, U. S. Army, at Camp Supply, I. T., will be relieved from duty at that post, and will report to the commanding officer Fort Dodge, Kansas, for duty.

The Arkansas Line.—The commanding officer of Fort Lyon has been directed to keep the line of the Arkansas patrolled from May 1 to November 10, between his post and the west line of Kansas, and, in case of unexpected emergency, which leaves no time for application to department headquarters, he is authorized to draw the company of the Sixth U. S. Cavalry at Fort Wallace for service under his orders, reporting the fact without delay to department headquarters. That portion of Colorado west of Kansas, lying between the line of the Kansas Pacific Railroad and Raton Mountains, will be under his special supervision. The cavalry camp near Fort Bascom will be established under the same institutions and in the same manner as last season, and at the same time.

Indian Troubles.—Governor Osborn, of Kansas, telegraphs the New York World as follows from Topeka, Kansas, April 15. "Sir: No trouble is anticipated from Indians on our borders. Troops under orders from General Pope have been scouting along our southeastern borders, but have learned nothing indicating trouble. We rely, however, upon the power and diligence of the military rather than the friendly professions of the Indians."

Sixth Cavalry Encampment.—The summer camp of the Sixth U. S. Cavalry will be established near Fort Hays, Kansas, by the 1st proximo, and will consist of the headquarters of the regiment, and four of the companies now at Fort Riley. The commanding officer Fort Riley, Kansas, will send a party in advance, in charge of a commissioned officer, to prepare the camp. The heavy baggage of the command will be shipped from Fort Riley to Fort Hays by rail. The command will march with subsistence stores only. A commissioned officer and a suitable number of enlisted men to take charge of the post will be left in charge of Fort Riley. Major C. E. Compton, Sixth U. S. Cavalry, at Fort Hays, Kansas, will be relieved from duty at that post upon the arrival of the troops at the summer camp, and will report to his regimental commander for duty. Assistant Surgeon W. H. Gardner, U. S. Army, will accompany the command and remain with it during the summer. The orders and letters of instructions hitherto issued for the government of the camp will be carried out during the ensuing summer, except that the scouts on the Saline and Solomon rivers need only be made when the commanding officer of the camp deems it necessary. He will be careful, however, to investigate promptly and thoroughly all reports or rumors of Indian troubles in the region of country between Pawnee Fork and the Republican river, and take such immediate action as may be necessary thereon. One of the troops of the Sixth U. S. Cavalry at Fort Riley, Kansas, to be designated by the regimental commander, and the troop of the same regiment now at Fort Hays, will, under the direction of the commanding officers of those posts, march to Fort Dodge, Kansas, and report to the commanding officer for field service during the summer. The commanding officer Fort Dodge will send the necessary wagons to Fort Hays for the transportation of the baggage of these two companies to Fort Dodge. These wagons must be at Hays in time to leave that post on the 3d proximo. With these two troops and Troop G, of the same regiment, now at his post, he will keep the line of the Arkansas, as far west as the western line of Kansas, and the region between the Arkansas and the southern line of Kansas, as far west as the route to Camp Supply, patrolled as thoroughly as possible during the summer.

DEPARTMENT OF THE PLATTE.

Brigadier-General E. O. C. Ord: Headquarters, Omaha, Nebraska.

Post Chaplain David White, U. S. Army, April 10 was assigned to duty at Camp Stambaugh, W. T.

Second Cavalry.—Captain John Mix, with his company (M), and sufficient men of Company C, Second Cavalry, to increase the strength of the party to sixty enlisted men, was April 7 ordered to proceed at once by rail to Grand Island, and will march thence to the vicinity of the settlements on the north branch of the Loup Fork. Thence he will scout for at least a week, in advance of the settlements, in search of raiding Indians, under special instructions from the department commander. Having performed this duty, he will return to Grand Island and report, by telegraph, to headquarters for further instructions. The command will be supplied with shelter tents, rations for fifteen days, and one hundred and fifty rounds of ammunition per man. First Lieutenant J. T. Peale, Second Cavalry, will act as quartermaster for these troops.

A board of officers, to consist of Major Eugene M. Baker, Second Cavalry, Captain John Mix, Second Cavalry, Captain Edward J. Spaulding, Second Cavalry, and Captain H. G. Litchfield, Second Artillery, were April 15 appointed for the inspection and purchase of horses for the Second Cavalry. In the performance of this duty, the board will proceed to such of the following named places as may be necessary, viz: Omaha, Nebraska; Council Bluffs, Iowa; St. Mary's, Iowa; St. Joseph, Missouri; Kansas City, Missouri; Lexington, Missouri; Fairfield, Iowa; Iowa City, Iowa; Des Moines, Iowa; Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Marion, Iowa; Rockford, Illinois; Belvidere, Illinois, and Beloit, Wisconsin. Captain H. G. Litchfield, Second Artillery, will perform the duties of A. A. Q. M. in connection with the purchase of these horses.

Eighth Infantry.—Post at Beaver, Utah. "This post," writes a correspondent, "was established May 25, 1872, by four companies of the Eighth Infantry; the camp is snugly ensconced in the mouth of a canon, about two miles from the city of Beaver. Just before last Christmas each company folded their tents, not noiselessly like the Arabs, but with considerable hilarity, because of their agreeable change from canvas to good substantial quarters. The post now consists of four good stone buildings for the companies, for which Uncle Sam paid something in the neighborhood of \$20,000. There are several smaller ones of the same material occupied by the officers. The men are now continually employed planting what are called trees, but what appear to be nothing except straight poles, with their tops all bandaged up with old rags and bags of all sorts; they appear, about twilight, to the uneducated eye of a recruit, as so many lithe, stationary sentinels suffering from neuralgia or cephalalgia, or some other ailment of the head. Laying out and ploughing gardens, erecting hen-coops of all shapes and sizes, occupies the incessant labors of the prisoners. These buildings are so picturesque that they are quite an ornament to the camp, as they combine both ancient and modern ideas of architecture. A person could scarcely imagine how tenderly and maternally the feathered tribe is handled here by young unmarried men. Watching their proceedings lately, it called to memory the remark of Rip Van Winkle when he visits Hendrick Hudson's dumb family on the Catekill, viz.: 'Oh! if they were only gals, what fine wives they would make.' Bear in mind this is in Utah. Changing the beds of streams is another favorite pastime here. We now have three or four tiny streamlets dancing across the dusty parade ground, that seem from the adjacent hills as so many lines of silver drawn through the almost continual whirlwind of dust that envelopes the camp. A stranger coming here from the ringing of picks and shovels would imagine himself in some quiet farming village, were it not for the occasional roll of the drum. It can truly be called a post of 'magnificent intentions,' but occasionally some of the grand projects fail; for instance, about the close of the winter, all hands were mustered to construct an ice-pond, and breast works of earth flew up in all directions as if by magic; the bed of the stream was turned; but alas! for the rich crop that was expected to be reaped, about next July or August, the water couldn't be kept there by any means, so the engineer relinquished it as a bad job, with the idea, I have no doubt, that for ways that are dark that water is very peculiar; and thus we have an ice-house in embryo, another laughable unfinished relic of our winter's labor. There are quite a number of other prodigious half-completed undertakings that I will not weary you with. Much suffering was experienced last winter by the prisoners from the want of a suitable guard-house, but now the arrangement is a little more comfortable, and all seem to be hopeful, being buoyed up with a current rumor that there will be a grand guard-house built this summer. R. G."

Leave of absence for fifteen days was April 8 granted Second Lieutenant Charles M. Baily.

Leave of absence for twenty days was April 5 granted First Lieutenant Samuel Craig.

DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS.

Brigadier-General C. C. Augur: Headquarters, San Antonio, Texas.

Twenty-fourth Infantry.—The commanding officer Company E April 1 was directed to transfer all infantry experimental arms and equipments for which he is accountable, to the commanding officer Company H, Twenty-fourth Infantry, who will give them a fair trial, rendering monthly reports to the Chief of Ordnance, through chief ordnance officer of the Department. Captain E. J. Strang, A. Q. M. U. S. Army, April 1 was relieved from duty at Fort Duncan, and assigned to duty at Denison, Texas.

Leave of absence for twelve days was granted Chaplain John N. Schultz, to take effect April 7.

Leave of absence for thirty days, with permission to apply for an extension of five months, March 12 was granted to First Lieutenant J. B. Nixon, regimental quartermaster. Captain J. W. Clous March 12 was ordered to report by letter to Colonel

Hatch, Ninth Cavalry, for such duty with his mounted company as the colonel may assign him. This company will still be reported as belonging to Fort Brown. The commanding officer Fort Brown, Texas, March 12 was ordered to detail an officer to proceed to Corpus Christi, Texas, to relieve First Lieutenant M. W. Saxton, in charge of escort to the United States Commissioners. First Lieutenant James N. Morgan March 12 was relieved from duty as a member of the G. C. M. convened by par. 1, S. O. No. 31, headquarters Department of Texas.

Tenth Cavalry.—Upon the arrival of Companies C and D at Fort Sill, I. T., in accordance with orders dated April 1 they will proceed to Fort Griffin, Texas, for duty.

Fourth Cavalry.—Second Lieutenant O. W. Budd March 13 was directed to proceed by boat from Ringgold Barracks to Fort Brown, Texas. Upon arrival at Fort Brown, Texas, Lieutenant Budd will send the enlisted men who are able to travel, and the horses belonging to Company M, Fourth Cavalry, in charge of a non-commissioned officer, to Ringgold Barracks, and will himself, with the company property and six enlisted men under medical treatment, return to Ringgold Barracks by first boat.

Fort Stockton.—A General Court-martial was ordered to convene at Fort Stockton, Texas, April 11. Detail for the court: Captain Francis S. Dodge, Ninth Cavalry; Assistant Surgeon Peter J. A. Cleary, U. S. Army; First Lieutenants Michael L. Courtney, James Pratt, Jr.; Second Lieutenant Henry P. Ritzius, Twenty-fifth Infantry. Captain James S. Tomkins, Twelfth-fifth Infantry, judge-advocate.

New Equipments for Cavalry.—The chief ordnance officer of the Department April 2 was directed to issue the new cavalry equipments, sent to this Department for trial, as follows, fifty sets each: To commanding officers Companies A, B, D, I, L, Fourth Cavalry, at Fort Clark, Texas, and Company M, Fourth Cavalry, at Fort Duncan, Texas; also to commanding officers Companies A, and E, Ninth Cavalry, at Fort Concho, Texas; Companies C and K, Ninth Cavalry, at Ringgold Barracks, Texas; Company D, Ninth Cavalry, at Fort Stockton, Texas; Company F, Ninth Cavalry, at Fort McKavett, Texas; Company I, Ninth Cavalry, at Fort Davis, Texas; Companies G, A, M, and K, Tenth Cavalry, at Fort Sill, I. T.; Company H, Tenth Cavalry, at Fort Concho, Texas; Companies I and L, Tenth Cavalry, at Fort Richardson, Texas. Officers receiving these equipments will give them a thorough trial, and promptly render monthly reports, on their merits, to the Chief of Ordnance, through the chief ordnance officer of the Department.

Release of Santanta and Big Tree.—The following petition from Indians, asking for the release of Santanta and Big Tree, has been received at the Interior Department:

To Our Great Father, the President of the United States.

We, the chiefs, braves, warriors, head men and young men of the Kiowa and Comanche tribes of Indians, hereby acknowledge that we have heretofore incurred thy displeasure by numerous depredations and plunder, by murdering innocent people and taking into captivity innocent women and children. This we have done, while thou hast been feeding and clothing us, and in spite of the entreaties and warnings of the messengers oftentimes sent among us. We have by these wanton acts of ours defied the people and Government of the United States, until thou hast ceased thy long continued forbearance and has taken our chiefs, Santanta and Big Tree, prisoners and carried into captivity more than a hundred of our women and children. We love our chiefs and women and children, and are brought into deep trouble and sorrow by our own disobedience, which has caused our Great Father to inflict this severe punishment upon us; and we beg of our Great Father to pass by our many transgressions and forgive us, to begin life anew and return to us our loved chiefs and women and children. If our Great Father will do this, we solemnly promise, in the presence of these witnesses, that, with the assistance of the Great Spirit above, we will hereafter obey the wishes of our Great Father, as made known to us by his agents and messengers sent among us. We will go no more raiding into Texas, but will remain in our own lawful reservation. We will maintain a perpetual peace and friendship with the people and the Government of the United States, including the State of Texas. We will remain at peace with all the other Indian tribes, and use our influence to induce them to maintain friendly relations among themselves and towards the Government of the United States, and we will in all respects, to the best of our ability, obey the wishes of our agent. All this we solemnly promise, relying upon the Great Spirit above, in whom we trust, to aid us in the faithful performance of our solemn pledges.

Made at the Kiowa and Comanche Agency, Indian Territory, the 20th day of the third month, 1873.

The petition is signed by the chiefs and head men of the Kiowa, Comanche, and Apache Indians, after a full interpretation of the same and after a general council among themselves on the subject. The above formal appeal had been preceded by urgent requests for the release of the imprisoned Indians, and the Indians were told that if they returned all the captives and stolen property as well and give promises for future good conduct, that the Great Father would intercede for them. Accordingly, after they had fully complied with the demands of the Government, Governor Davis of Texas was requested by the Secretary to release Santanta and Big Tree, and they are being held for the present only until provision can be made for their safe escort.

MILITARY DIVISION OF THE SOUTH.

Major-General I. McDonell: Headquarters, Louisville, Ky.

DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF.

Colonel W. H. Emory: Headquarters, New Orleans, La.

Leave of absence for thirty days was granted Major William H. Johnston, paymaster U. S. Army, April 7.

Nineteenth Infantry.—Second Lieutenant Warren R. Dutton, Company I, has been promoted first lieutenant, vice Wetmore, resigned, which carries him to Company G.

Fourth Infantry.—A General Court-martial was appointed to meet at Little Rock, Arkansas, April 14. The following officers of the Fourth Infantry were detailed for the court: Captains Charles G. Bartlett, Avery B. Cain, Edwin M. Coates; First Lieutenants Gerhard L. Luhn, Horace Neide, Josiah A. Sheetz; Second Lieutenants John Scott, H. E. Robinson. First Lieutenant Henry Seton, judge-advocate.

MILITARY DIVISION OF THE ATLANTIC.

Major-General W. S. Hancock: Hdqrs, New York.
DEPARTMENT OF THE EAST.

Maj.-Gen. W. S. Hancock: Hdqrs. cor. Greene and Houston sts., N. Y.

The following officers were registered at headquarters Department of the East, for the week ending April 15: Captain George B. Hoge, Twelfth Infantry; Colonel W. B. Hazen, Sixth Infantry; First Lieutenant George M. Wheeler, Corps of Engineers; Captains J. S. Conrad, Second Infantry; S. G. Whipple, First Cavalry; First Lieutenant J. F. Simpson, Third Cavalry.

Fifth Artillery.—The leave of absence for fifteen days granted Captain Benjamin F. Rittenhouse, in par. 2, S. O. No. 59, c. s., from department headquarters, April 9 was extended five days.

Fort Monroe, Va.—A General Court-martial was appointed to meet at Fort Monroe, Virginia, April 14. Detail for the court: Major Gustavus A. De Russy, Third Artillery; Captains Richard Loder, Fourth Artillery; Edward R. Warner, Third Artillery; First Lieutenants Arthur Morris, Fourth Artillery; Joshua A. Fessenden, Fifth Artillery; Richard G. Shaw, First Artillery; James L. Mast, Second Artillery; Daniel D. Wheeler, First Artillery; Rene E. De Russy, Second Artillery; Second Lieutenants Allyn Capron, First Artillery; Gilbert P. Cotton, First Artillery; William B. Weir, Fifth Artillery; Clarence A. Postley, Third Artillery; First Lieutenant Frederick Robinson, Fifth Artillery, judge-advocate.

DEPARTMENT OF THE LAKES.

Brigadier-General P. St. G. Cooke: Headquarters, Detroit, Mich.

First Infantry.—The leave of absence granted Second Lieutenant J. J. O'Connell, April 2, from headquarters Madison Barracks, N. Y., was extended ten days, April 7.

MILITARY DIVISION OF THE PACIFIC.

Major-Gen. J. M. Schofield: Hdqrs San Francisco, Cal.
DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA.

Major-General Schofield, April 7, resumed command of the Department of California.

Fourth Artillery.—A General Court-martial was appointed to meet at the headquarters building in San Francisco, April 9. Detail for the court: Colonels Horace Brooks, Fourth Artillery; O. B. Wilcox, Twelfth Infantry; Major H. R. Mizner, Twelfth Infantry; Captains John Mendenhall, Fourth Artillery; George K. Brady, Twenty-third Infantry; Henry C. Hasbrouck, Fourth Artillery; First Lieutenants Edward Field, Fourth Artillery; John W. Roder, regimental adjutant, Fourth Artillery; Second Lieutenant John Simpson, Fourth Artillery. Major Herbert P. Curtis, J.-A. U. S. Army, judge-advocate.

Twelfth Infantry.—Leave of absence for ten days was April 8 granted First Lieutenant J. S. King.

The meeting of the G. C.-M. convened by S. O. No. 37, c. s., from department headquarters, was postponed until further orders, April 7.

DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA.

Lieutenant-Colonel George Crook: Headquarters, Prescott, A. T.

Despatches reached headquarters at Prescott, on the 26th ult., from the troops operating in the field, in Tonto Basin. They had killed thirty-eight warriors and captured seventeen women, mostly Tonto and Pinal Apaches. The commands of Major Brown, Captain Taylor, and Lieutenants Woodson and Michler, were the troops engaged. A portion of the band who killed Swain, McDonald, and Taylor, not long since, were killed by Major Brown's command. About thirty came in and surrendered at Camp Verde, and report large numbers willing to surrender. They are very much scattered and frightened. The troops are operating mostly on foot, the horses suffering badly from the epizootic. A number of Tonto Apaches came in and surrendered at the San Carlos Reservation, and have gone back to bring in the remainder of their band. They say they can't live outside now; the soldiers won't let them sleep.

Twenty-third Infantry.—A leave of absence has been granted Captain James Thompson, for thirty days, with permission to apply to the Adjutant-General of the Army, for an extension to include August 31, 1873, he having tendered his resignation to take effect September 1, 1873.

Par. 3, S. O. No. 9, c. s., from department headquarters, is amended to read: In complying with par. 3, S. O. No. 90, series of 1872, from department headquarters, John La Barea, A. A. S., will proceed, via the Gulf of California, to San Francisco, Cal.

COURT-MARTIAL ORDERS.

No. 16, March 18.—Approves the proceedings, etc., of the General Court-martial in the case of Private Andrew Roberdy, U. S. Military Academy detachment of cavalry, sentenced by a court-martial convened at West Point February 17, and of which Captain L. Lorain was president, to be confined in the post guard-house one week.

No. 17, March 18.—Approves the proceedings, etc., in the case of Second Class Private Samuel Graham, Company A, Battalion of Engineers, U. S. Army, sentenced by a court-martial at Willett's Point February 24, and of which Captain W. R. King was president, "To forfeit to the United States all pay and allowances now due

or to become due; to be confined at hard labor for the period of one year and six months, and then to be dishonorably discharged the service of the United States."

THE ASSASSINATION OF GENERAL CANBY.

No event that has occurred in connection with our Army since the Rebellion has created such excitement throughout the country as the news of the assassination of Brigadier-General Canby and Rev. Dr. Thomas, of the Peace Commission, by the Modoc chief, Captain Jack, near Tule Lake, on Saturday, April 12.

The news of the massacre was communicated to General Sherman in the following despatch:

HEADQUARTERS DIVISION OF THE PACIFIC,
April 12, 1873.

General W. T. Sherman, Washington:

The following report of the horrible treachery and murder has just been received. I have telegraphed Colonel Gillem to let the punishment of the Modocs be as severe as their treachery has merited, and hope to hear soon that he has made an end of them.

J. M. SCHOFIELD, Major-General Commanding.
Copy of telegram to the assistant adjutant-general, Department of California, from the Modoc expedition:

"General Canby, with the Peace Commissioners, went to meet the Indians, about one mile in front of the camp, at three minutes past eleven o'clock this morning. At half-past one P. M. the signal officer, whom I had watching the conference, reported firing. Upon reaching the place of meeting I found that General Canby and the Rev. Dr. Thomas had been killed and Mr. Meacham wounded. The other Commissioner, Mr. Dyer, escaped unhurt. I shall at once commence active operations against the Indians. ALVIN GILLEM, Colonel First Cavalry, Commanding."

"Dated at Camp, south of Tule Lake, April 11."

In reply to this General Sherman telegraphed:

HEADQUARTERS OF ARMY OF UNITED STATES,
WASHINGTON, D. C., April 12, 1873.

General Gillem, Modoc Camp, via Yreka, Cal.

Your despatch announcing the terrible loss to the country of General Canby by the perfidy of the Modoc band of Indians has been shown to the President, who authorizes me to instruct you to make the attack so strong and persistent that their fate may be commensurate with their crime. You will be fully justified in their utter extermination. W. T. SHERMAN, General.

WASHINGTON, April 13, 1873.

Gen. J. M. Schofield, commanding Military Division, San Francisco.

Your despatch of yesterday is this moment received. Last night, about midnight, General Townsend came to my house with a despatch from General Gillem to the same effect as yours, which despatch he had shown to the President, and I answered General Gillem direct, with a copy of the answer to you. The President now sanctions the most severe punishment of the Modocs, and I hope to hear that they have met the doom they so richly have earned by their insolence and perfidy. Consult Mrs. Canby, and have very honor paid the remains of General Canby. This is Sunday. I will see the President this evening, and to-morrow will notify you of any change in the existing command, if made; but you may be sure that any measure of severity to the savages will be sustained. W. T. SHERMAN, General.

In his last despatch to General Sherman, dated Tule Lake, California, April 7, General Canby states that he had seen the instructions sent to the Peace Commissioners by the Secretary of the Interior, and goes on to say:

If the Modocs surrender as prisoners of war, the General Government would have paramount and exclusive jurisdiction over the cases of all. The same result would be secured by treaty; but are not treaties with Indian tribes prohibited by recent legislation? A reservation within the limits of either California or Oregon would not bar State jurisdiction until after its cession by those States, and would have no retroactive effect; and for crimes committed within the limits of such a reservation it is doubtful—under Mr. Justice Miller's decisions in the Kansas reservation cases—whether the State jurisdiction would not prevail.

The murders of citizens were committed beyond the limits of any reservation and within the jurisdiction of the two States, and of course anterior to any arrangement with the Modocs. I do not question the right or the power of the General Government to make any arrangement that may be thought proper; but I think they should make such as to secure a permanent peace, together with liberal and just treatment of the Indians. In my judgment, permanent peace cannot be secured if they are allowed to remain in this immediate neighborhood. The Modocs are now sensible that they cannot live in peace on Lost River, and have abandoned their claim to it, but wish to be left in the lava beds. This means license to plunder and a stronghold to retreat to, and was refused.

Their last proposition is to come in and have the opportunity of looking for a new home not far away, and if they are sincere in this, the trouble will be soon ended. But there has been so much vacillation and duplicity in their talks that I have hesitated about reporting until some definite result was attained. All the movements of troops have been made deliberately and cautiously, so as to avoid collision and to impress the Indians that we have no unfriendly intent. Thus far we have succeeded very well, but their conduct has given so much reason to apprehend that they are only trying to gain time that I have organized a party of scouts to operate with the troops, if they should go to the mountains or renew hostilities.

The following despatch, forwarded from Yreka, Cal., was not received at Washington until after the news of General Canby's death:

LAVA BEDS, April 7.

To the Hon. Columbus Delano, Secretary of the Interior.

At the first meeting since our arrival here the Modocs insisted on amnesty for all and a home on Lost River. At the second meeting they abandoned their claim to Lost

River, and demanded the lava beds for a home. We do not believe a lasting peace would follow the settlement of the Modocs in this country. We meet them to-morrow to discuss only amnesty and a new home. They are wavering, and indicate willingness to talk over these terms.

A. B. MEACHAM,

Chairman of the Commission.

Lieutenant William L. Sherwood, of the Twenty-first Infantry, has also fallen a victim to Modoc treachery. On the 12th of April he and Lieutenant William H. Boyle, of the same regiment, were induced to leave Major Mason's camp by the Indians waving a white flag and shouting that they wanted to talk. They were fired upon, and Lieutenant Boyle fortunately escaped, but Lieutenant Sherwood received wounds from which he has since died. Major Green of the Twelfth Cavalry, is also reported to have had a narrow escape from death, an accidental pistol-shot from one of his own soldiers passing through the front of his forage cap, tearing away the cross sabres. The latest despatch from camp reports that Mr. Meacham is considerably better, and hopes are entertained of his recovery. Mr. Meacham states that he fired his Deringer after he was wounded, and he thinks that he shot Sobonchin. Riddle's squaw states that Rev. Dr. Thomas was shot by Boston Charley. The poor old gentleman fell on his knees from the effects of the first shot, and beseeched Boston to spare his life. Boston responded by shooting him again through the head. The assassination of General Canby has created a most profound impression on the military, and his life will be fully avenged. The noble old gentleman was stripped stark naked by the treacherous murderers, and his necktie was the only portion of his clothing found. It is now known that the Indians intended a general massacre of all the "Teyes" or chiefs. They expected Colonel Mason to come out and talk with them on the other side, where they hung out a white flag; but the officer of the day, Lieutenant Sherwood, was the only victim to their treachery.

The *Tribune* Washington correspondent reports the following interview with General Sherman April 15:

Reporter—Do you think it possible, General, that the Modocs have any secret passages to sneak out of the lava beds, and have gone away after having determined to murder all they could before leaving?

General Sherman—Oh, not at all. The formation of these lava beds is such that the Indians can separately crawl in and out of the crevices, and it is almost impracticable for our forces to reach them. Hence they consider themselves pretty safe where they are.

Reporter—Has this section of country ever been explored?

General Sherman—It has been traversed by miners searching for gold, but I don't think it was ever explored by any one who has any knowledge of topography or delineation.

Referring to the murder of General Canby, General Sherman said: "I don't apprehend any spreading of this thing. It is very strange, though, how quickly the Indians hear of such an occurrence. They all know it immediately, and talk of a big chief being killed."

While the General was explaining the position of the troops in the various Territories, the reporter, pointing to Arizona, said: "General Crook is making it very lively for the red skins here."

General Sherman—Yes, he is. Crook is like an Irishman. He will not remain still, but keeps moving all the time, and really that is the only true Indian policy. Crook is our best Indian officer. You see he has never gone on a reservation to chastise the Indians, but when they come away from their reservations he makes it very lively for them. He is an intelligent, able officer, and a soldier by nature, and he don't scare worth a cent.

Reporter—General Davis will be apt to make it lively for the Modocs now.

General Sherman—Yes, he is very active, and not slow to pitch in.

The following description was furnished by Mr. Jesse Applegate to an Oregon paper of the position occupied by the Modoc army of Captain Jack:

The word "pedregal," like the word "canyon," has been introduced into our language from the Spanish as designating a feature of the topography more clearly and tersely than any word or phrase in our language. As by the word "canyon" the idea of a ravine between walls of rock is conveyed to the mind, so by the word "pedregal" we understand an irregular volcanic surface of basalt, trachyte, etc., more or less broken by upheavals from below, and cracked and fissured in the process of cooling. The stronghold of the Modoc Indians is a "pedregal" of the most extensive and elaborate description; it occupies, with but few intervals, one hundred square miles.

If you can, imagine a smooth, solid sheet of granite ten miles square and five hundred feet thick covering resistless mines of gunpowder scattered at irregular intervals under it; that these mines are exploded simultaneously, rending the whole field into rectangular masses from the size of a match-box to that of a church, heaping these masses high in some places and leaving deep chasms in others. Following the explosion the whole thing is placed in one of Vulcan's crucibles and heated up to a point when the whole begins to fuse and run together, and then suffered to cool. The roughness of the upper surface remains as the exploding left it, while all below is honey-combed by the cracks and crevices caused by the cooling of the melted rock.

From the top of one of these stone pyramids an Indian can shoot a man without even exposing a square inch of himself. He can, with due haste, load and shoot a common muzzle-loading rifle ten times before a man can scramble over the rocks and chasms between the slain and the slayer. If at this terrible expense of life a force dislodges him from his cave, he has only to drop into and follow some subterranean passage with which he is familiar to gain another ambush, from whence it will cost ten more lives to dislodge him; and so on.

THE NAVY.

The Editor invites for this department of the JOURNAL all facts of interest to the Navy, especially such as relate to the movement of officers or vessels.

VARIOUS NAVAL ITEMS.

THE *Powhatan* was at Key West April 2.

THE *Ticonderoga* was at St. Catharines, February 6.

THE *Tallapoosa* arrived at Washington Navy-yard April 12.

THE U. S. steamer *Brooklyn* arrived at Trieste with the store-ship *Supply* in tow, April 10.

THE *Junata* left the Navy-yard, Boston April 11, for the Compass Station, whence she would proceed to Newport, R. I.

CHIEF-ENGINEER WILLIAM H. SHOCK is to be sent abroad on public service, and will visit, examine, and report on the dock-yards of Europe.

MR. O. P. ELDRIDGE, formerly of the pay department at the Brooklyn Navy-yard, has been appointed pay clerk of the Portsmouth, N. H., Navy-yard.

THE name of the war steamer *Chickamauga*, purchased from the United States by Spain, has been changed to the *Bazan*. She is ready for a cruise, and carries two heavy guns.

THERE are only twenty-two patients in the Naval Hospital, Mare Island—the smallest number that has been on the sick list there for two years. The largest number during that time was seventy.

THE *Benicia* arrived at Mare Island, April 8, from Honolulu. After procuring a supply of provisions she will proceed to Panama, touching on the way at the principal ports on the Mexican coast.

DESPATCHES received from the *Yantic*, dated at Zanzibar, January 21, report that she would sail the next day for Bombay, unless she should be kept off by the northeast monsoons and have to go to Singapore direct.

REAR-ADMIRAL SELFRIDGE, commandant of the Mare Island Navy-yard, will be relieved by Commodore W. E. Le Roy, on June 1. Rear-Admiral Boggs, Secretary of the Lighthouse Board, has been relieved by Commander Walker.

A REPORT from Panama under date of April 3, says: the *Pensacola* and *Omaha* sailed from Valparaiso for Coquimbo on the 19th of March. The *Narragansett* arrived in the harbor on the morning of the 2d inst., and the *Saranac* is daily expected.

PAY DIRECTOR E. T. DUNN sailed from San Francisco April 1, for Yokohama, on special duty connected with the establishment of a naval store house in Japan. He made an official inspection of the paymaster's department and inspector's department at Mare Island, also at Pensacola and New Orleans, on the way to San Francisco.

THE San Francisco *Independent* says: "First-Lieutenant H. J. Bishop, went on duty at the marine barracks, on Mare Island, last Monday. This gentleman has been stationed on this coast before, and is both well and favorably known. His friends all welcome him back." Lieutenant Bishop was detached from U. S. Flagship *Pensacola*, off Valparaiso, Chili, last February.

THE San Francisco *Alta*, commenting on the purchase of the *Vanderbilt*, says: "It is the intention, it is said, if the sale is confirmed, to take the steamer to San Francisco and transform her into a sailing vessel. Her engines and machinery, together with the metal that will be taken out in making the alterations, can be sold for fully as much, if not more than was paid for her, and the cost of making the alterations and rigging her as a sailer will not exceed \$35,000, and they will then have a ship that will sell in any market in the world for \$60,000 or \$70,000."

THE Vallejo (Cal.) *Chronicle* of April 5 publishes the following extract from a private letter from the U. S. steamer *Benicia*, dated at Honolulu, March 18: "We sail on the 20th for Mare Island Navy-yard. Our foremast has given out, and we come to have a new one made; we will not wait for it, but will return about next October and have it put in. In the meantime we will go to Panama. Before we left the Navy-yard officials' attention was directed to the condition of our foremast, but they said it was all right. The engineers have been very busy repairing the boilers; several soft patches have been put on, some very large ones. Some of their valve gear broke down, and had to be replaced from ashore. We have spent considerable money for repairs since being here."

CAPTAIN JOHN WILKINSON, in a private letter referring to the account of the escape of the blockade runner *R. E. Lee* from the U. S. steamer *Iroquois*, published in the JOURNAL of March 29, says: "I must say a few words in reply to the assertion made apparently by one of the officers of the *Iroquois*—was it my old friend Case?—that I could have got rid of that vessel at any time by bringing the *Lee* head to wind. Such a course would have been fatal to me. The wind was about north, and I would have been obliged to steer, say N. E. Having no chart within reach at present, I cannot make the positive assertion, but my belief is that I would have been high and dry ashore in eight hours. There would have been a great risk, too, of encountering other cruisers. The *Iroquois* furled sails about one o'clock, which seems to prove that she was not to be easily shaken off. The fact is, the *Lee* could probably beat her two or three knots an hour under fair conditions, but as I stated in my account, our coal was very inferior; and I may add that I was never caught with any more of it on board."

PERSONS corresponding with officers and seamen on board our vessels on the Asiatic, Brazil, and West India stations, or other places where prepayment of postage is required, should be more careful in prepayment of postage. The full rate should always be prepaid, otherwise the letter will be sent to the Dead Letter

Office. There are constant detentions owing to no postage being prepaid, or not a sufficient sum according to postal regulations with foreign countries. A three-cent stamp is often put on a letter requiring ten or fifteen cents; or a ten-cent stamp is put on a double letter, in either of which cases the letter will not be forwarded to its destination. There are more letters detained and delayed on account of short postage than for any other cause. The single rate to Japan and China via San Francisco, is ten cents, fifteen cents to Brazil, eighteen cents to Montevideo, ten cents to Aspinwall and Panama, twenty-two cents to Chili and Peru, ten cents to San Domingo. All these rates are by American steamers, except to Chili and Peru. By other routes the rates are higher.

CHAPLAIN DONALD McLAREN, U. S. Navy, has raised some excitement among the Marines at the Brooklyn Navy-yard, by some remarks before the Presbytery of Brooklyn respecting the moral condition of his parishioners. He explains in a published letter that "I spoke only of certain individuals of low moral tone, who drift into the Marine corps; for I proceeded to tell the Presbytery that, while the number of religious men is not large, there are, at the present time, several professing Christians at the Barracks. I also referred to the fact—well known to those familiar with this branch of the service—that many very superior men—skilled artisans, fluent linguists and veterans from European armies—are enlisted as marines. I have met professors of music and a few men even of liberal education wearing the uniform. Such men although well able to obtain a competent livelihood in civil pursuits, enter the service for various reasons—some from being thrown out of employment through a depression in their peculiar branch of industry; some because they find themselves without friends or home in a strange land; but the larger number from a mere desire to roam and see the world."

THE *Richmond*, *Canandaigua*, *Nipsic* and *Wyoming*, are expected to return to Key West from the cruises on which they are now respectively engaged by the 1st of next month. The *Richmond*, which left Key West, March 13, had orders to visit San Juan, P. R., and after surveying the shoal off Balandra Head, San Domingo, to touch at St. Domingo city, Port au Prince, Cape Haytien, Guantanamo Bay, Santiago de Cuba, Havana and Matanzas, and return to Key West. The *Wyoming* to survey the east coast of Mexico, from the mouth of the Rio Grande to Laguna de Terminos. This is a part of the general movement instituted to collect information by accurate surveys of both the eastern and western coasts of Mexico for the benefit of commerce. The loss recently of several steamers on the west coast of Mexico, indicates the uncertainty and unsafety of navigation in that quarter, and a running survey is to be made of that coast, probably from San Diego to Cape Corrientes, also the Gulf of California. The *Canandaigua*'s cruising ground is about the waters of Cuba. The *Nipsic* has been engaged in surveying Fawn Shoal. On the completion of this duty, she expected to visit some of the Mexican ports—Progreso, Vera Cruz, Tampico etc.

MR. G. E. YARDLEY, late commandant's clerk of the Brooklyn Navy-yard, was advanced to the position of vice-admiral's secretary, on the 14th inst., with the rank of lieutenant, U. S. Navy; vice Lieutenant C. H. Poor, resigned. Mr. Yardley, we believe, entered the service in 1862 as captain's clerk on board the sloop of war *Powhatan*, one of the vessels of Dupont's expedition to Port Royal, and which was then commanded by Rear-Admiral S. W. Godon. Mr. Yardley continued as captain's clerk to Rear-Admiral Godon when the latter commanded the steamer *Susquehanna*, and fourth division of Porter's squadron at the two battles of Fort Fisher, in December, 1864, and January, 1865. When Rear-Admiral Godon commanded the South Atlantic squadron, in 1866-7, Mr. Yardley was retained as his secretary, and also as his first clerk when commandant of the Brooklyn Navy-yard in 1869. In 1870, when Rear-Admiral Melancton Smith relieved Rear-Admiral Godon, and also when Vice-Admiral Stephen C. Rowan relieved Rear-Admiral Smith, in 1872, Mr. Yardley still remained as first clerk to commandant until his promotion, which was most deserving for his long, faithful, and efficient services, acknowledged as above. Vice-Admiral Rowan's selection of Mr. Yardley as his secretary has afforded general satisfaction to the officers and clerks attached to the Brooklyn Navy-yard. Mr. Yardley is a most affable and courteous gentleman, characteristically modest and unassuming and thoroughly acquainted with his duties.

THE *North China Daily News*, dated Shanghai, February 21, reports a boat race between the cutters of the *Saco* and *Iroquois*. The distance rowed was five nautical miles, from an imaginary line extending from the River Police Hulk to Reynold's Pagoda. The *Iroquois*' boat won the toss for places and took the Shanghai side, the two boats being placed about mid-stream. The signal was given to start at 1h. 52m. precisely, and both took the water simultaneously. Before passing the dock the *Iroquois*' boat took a slight lead, but that was only momentary, for at 2 o'clock the *Saco* was a clear two lengths ahead, and gradually continued to increase her lead. When opposite Dow's godowns, the *Saco* shaped a course for the Pootung side, and the advantage gained by the local knowledge that was here displayed, in the various sets of the tide on the last of the ebb, was soon apparent. Not so the *Iroquois*, which still kept the Shanghai side, where they had both tide and wind to contend against, whereas the *Saco*'s cutter was flying through smooth and comparatively still water, sheltered from the southerly wind, which blew moderately fresh about this time. The line was crossed by the *Saco*'s boat and the gun fired announcing their victory at 2 h. 36 m. 2 sec., the distance having been accomplished by the winning boat in 44 minutes and 2 seconds. Loud cheers were now heard from the *Saco*, and also from the various boats' crews that were hovering around. The *Iroquois*' crew threw up their oars, at

2 h. 37 min., but resumed pulling again almost immediately, and ultimately crossed the line at 2 h. 41 m. 55 sec., or 5 min. and 53 sec. after the *Saco*'s boat had won. Both boats were built in Kobe by the same builder, and are of similar dimensions, but the winning boat is prettier in the eyes of a rowist. To show, however, that the *Iroquois*' men were sanguine of winning, they covered \$110 in addition to the original stake. There are said also to have been bets exceeding \$1,000, though the odds in this case were mostly in favor of the *Saco*'s crew, who, we may mention, are the same men that rowed and won at the last autumn regatta on the Soochow Creek. The following were the terms of the race: 1. Five miles straightaway race—boats to start from a place decided upon by the referee, and finish at River Police Hulk. 2. Boats to start near slack water, but before the flood made, that is, on the last of the ebb tide. 3. The signal for starting will be a gun fired from the referee's boat. 4. If a false start, the boats to be recalled by a second gun. 5. [Referred only to depositing stakes.] 6. The referee to be decided upon by the umpires before the race. 7. The time for starting to be given the day before the race. 8. The referee to decide if the weather is suitable. 9. No spare oars to be carried by either boat. 10. The race to be for \$500 a side. 11. No fouling—the boat that fouls loses the race. 12. Neither boat to take the other boat's course until fully two boats' length ahead. 13. Choice for position to be drawn for on the course.

(Signed) A. G. PAUL, *Saco*.
C. McDONALD, *Iroquois*.

Referee—LIEUT. GREAVES, H. M. S. *Dove*.

Umpires } MID. C. McDONALD, U. S. S. *Iroquois*.

LIEUT. A. G. PAUL, U. S. S. *Saco*.

Judges—Messrs. NICKEL and DEVONPORT.

NAVY GAZETTE.

REGULAR NAVAL SERVICE.

ORDERED.

APRIL 10.—Passed Assistant Surgeon Wm. S. Bowen, to the Naval Hospital, Norfolk, Va.

APRIL 12.—Boatswain James Nash, to the Navy-yard, Boston Mass.

APRIL 14.—Master Frederick E. Upton, to the Junata.

DETACHED.

APRIL 10.—Commander C. J. McDougal, from the temporary command of the Naval Rendezvous, San Francisco, and ordered to command the *Saco*, Asiatic Station, per steamer of May 1.

Lieutenant-Commander S. D. Ames, from the Naval Academy May 1, and ordered to duty in the European Station.

Ensign Boynton Leach, from the Junata, and placed on sick leave.

Surgeon B. H. Kidder, from the Naval Hospital, Norfolk, Va., and ordered to the Navy-yard, Pensacola, Fla.

Second Assistant Engineer Abner Kirby, from the Tallapoosa, and ordered to examination for promotion.

Second Assistant Engineer Theophilus Cook, from the Naval Station, League Island, Pa., and ordered to the Tallapoosa.

Second Assistant Engineer A. B. Bates, from the Navy-yard, Mare Island, Cal., and ordered to the Naval Station, League Island.

APRIL 14.—Second Assistant Engineer C. P. Howell, from the Bureau of Steam Engineering, and ordered to hold himself in readiness for sea service.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

APRIL 14.—Leave has been granted to Lieutenant-Commander O. F. Heyerman for six months, with permission to visit Europe.

MISCELLANEOUS.

APRIL 14.—Application having been made by the Western Union Telegraph Company for the services of Commander Ralph Chandler, he has been relieved from his present duties as assistant executive officer of the Brooklyn navy-yard, and ordered to proceed to Key West, Fla., and on the expiration of two months' absence is to return to New York and resume his regular duties.

LIST OF DEATHS

In the Navy of the United States which have been reported to the Surgeon-General of the U. S. Navy and chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery for the week ending April 13, 1873:

Robert Prosgord, quartermaster, March 12, Naval Hospital, Mare Island, Cal.

(From the Charleston News.)

THE FORCE OF GUNPOWDER.

DOUBTLESS there are many Charlestonians who still remember the terrific detonations caused by the explosions of the Confederate iron-clads *Charleston* and *Chicora*, in Cooper river, opposite Marshall's wharf, at the evacuation of Charleston in February, 1865. It has always been a matter of surprise to the wrecking fraternity that only a small portion of the wreck of the first-named boat could be found in the vicinity of the spot at which she was anchored. Professor Maillefert, whose fame as a wrecker is so well known to the Charleston public, has for a long time occupied himself with the solution of this riddle.

A few weeks ago he accidentally observed a strange rippling of the water surface four hundred and fifty yards, more than a quarter of a mile, westward of the wreck of the vessel, and it at once occurred to him that the phenomenon afforded a clew to the mystery. He accordingly anchored one of his derricks above the spot marked by the ripple, and an examination revealed, lying upon the bottom of the river, the iron sheathing of the bow and one entire broadside of the vessel, constituting a mass of iron weighing altogether 212,750 pounds, or nearly one hundred tons. The whole broadside of the battery with the port-holes was intact. That this immense mass of iron should have been hurled through the air for more than a quarter of a mile, affords a startling illustration of the force of the explosion.

This discovery has led Professor Maillefert to suppose that the other half of the *Charleston* is lying about the same distance on the opposite side of the anchorage, and he has already begun to search for it. Professor Maillefert has recently contracted with the United States Government to remove the wreck of the Monitor *Keokuk*, which lies at the mouth of the harbor, near the Weehawken lightship. The *Keokuk* is the only remaining obstruction at the entrance to the harbor, and its removal will greatly contribute to the safety of navigation. The Professor has also received the contract to remove the wreck of a vessel at the mouth of Savannah river.

VENICE'S GREAT ADMIRAL.

A CHAPTER FROM VENETIAN HISTORY.

THE defeat at Pola filled Venice with amazement and consternation; for Carlo Zeno, it seems, instead of being sent to join Pisani, had been dispatched on a cruise to the Black Sea, so that the six galleys at Parenzo were all that were at the immediate disposal of the republic in this fearful crisis, when the enemy was within a day's sail of the lagoons. Pisani was violently assailed by his enemies, although they well knew he had fought the battle of Pola against his own judgment, and agreeably to the wishes of the government, as made known to him by its accredited agents Michele Steno, and Donato Zeno. The Great Council decreed his removal from the supreme command, and he was brought to Venice loaded with chains. Dragged before the Senate for trial, one of its members had the infamy to move "that Vettore Pisani be beheaded between the Red Columns;" and, this motion being negatived, he was finally sentenced to six months' imprisonment in that fearful dungeon, over the door of which, as over Dante's entrance to hell, might well have been inscribed: "Leave here all hope, O ye who enter in."

While this mockery of justice was being enacted in Venice, the Genoese had burned Grado, Umago, Rovigno and Caorla, and on the 6th of August, (1379), their fleet of forty-seven galleys, commanded by Pietro Doria, a cousin of the late admiral, appeared off the "City of the Sea," whose relative situation with regard to its immediate dependencies must now be given, in order that what follows may be clearly understood. "Of the natural channels which existed in the fringe of sand surrounding Venice," says Hazlitt, "the northernmost was that of Treporti." It separated the islets of San Erasmo and San Nicolo, and was adapted only for craft of the smallest description. The next aperture was that which lay to the south of San Nicolo, and which disjoined the latter from Malamocco; it was known as the port of Lido. To the south of Malamocco, in a nearly straight line of five miles, lay Pelestrina, and the space between the two islands formed the port of Malamocco, or the principal harbor of Venice. It was here that the deepest soundings were taken, and that vessels of the largest draught were able to ride. Below Pelestrina was Brondolo, behind which stood Chioggia. The southern point of Brondolo but touched the *terra firma*.

Chioggia, more anciently known as Sotta Marina was thus placed at the southern extremity of the *Dogado*. It was bisected by the canal of Santa Caterina into Chioggia *piccola* and Chioggia *grande*, which communicated by a draw-bridge of a quarter-mile in length. Great Chioggia was nearly two hundred and fifty yards square, with a circumference of two miles. A canal running the whole length of the lagoons, connected it with the capital, from which it was distant five and twenty miles. The configuration of Venice, and the narrowness of its superficial area, make it easy to imagine the anguish with which the intrusion of a foreign invader on Venetian ground inspired the Senate and the people." Upon the approach of the Genoese, all the above-mentioned channels had been obstructed with sunken vessels, booms and chains, except the very narrow one between Brondolo and the mainland, through which, to the surprise and consternation of the Signory, the enemy now penetrated, landing an army and taking possession of little Chioggia, without resistance, and preparing to continue their march to Great Chioggia, the fall of which they confidently expected would lead to that of the coveted capital. But upon reaching the long, narrow street leading to the bridge over which it was necessary to pass to come at Great Chioggia, they found it commanded by a small fort bristling with cannon, which were then coming into general use all over Europe, and having made a reconnaissance of the work, they wisely determined to await the arrival of the troops of Carrara, their ally, already near at hand, before attempting further operations. On the 10th the expected re-enforcements arrived, and on the 11th the army of the allies, twenty-four thousand strong, commenced its assault upon the fort, which continued without intermission for five days, and the assailants, who had suffered fearfully, were beginning to relinquish all hope of carrying it, when a fire broke out on board a vessel in the canal of Santa Caterina, which gave rise to a rumor among the defenders of the fort that the bridge in their rear was in flames, whereupon they deserted their guns and fled over it in a panic, thinking there were but a few minutes left to them to secure their safe retreat. So great was their disorder that they neglected to raise the draw after they had passed it, and a free passage was thus given to the enemy, who were not slow in taking advantage of it; so that Venetians, Genoese and Carrarese entered the gates of Great Chioggia almost side by side. Of the garrison in the town eight hundred were put to the sword, and four thousand taken prisoners.

The terror which now reigned in Venice no language can describe. The bell of the Campanile was tolled, a signal that danger pressed and the foe drew near, and the great square of Saint Mark was soon filled with armed men. The doge, Andrea Contarini, who was then in his seventy-third year, made his appearance on the balcony of the palace: "My children," said he, "this is sad news that we hear; but the new captain-general does not despair, and for myself I can say that so long as there are men enough left to garrison a fort or man a galley, so long shall I continue to defend the city."

But a veteran, who had served under Pisani for many long years, now came forth from the crowd and replied, respectfully but resolutely: "Giustissimi, we all know, your Serenity, comes of a good race, and has often approved himself a gallant officer, but God has not gifted him with great ability. There is but one man in Venice who can save her in this hour of peril, and that man is Vettore Pisani!" These were brave words and bravely were they spoken, for Giustissimi was one of the most powerful of the nobles, and his followers and dependents frowned darkly upon the speaker. But his speech had found a responsive echo in the breasts of the populace, and a cry arose that went from mouth to

month, through every street and every canal of the city, penetrating at last even through the walls of the loathsome dungeon where the admiral lay upon his bed of straw—"Pisani to the front, Giustissimi to the rear! Long live Vettore Pisani!"

The members of the Council of Ten next appeared on the balcony, and, taking their places on either side of the Doge, endeavored to address the multitude; but their voices were unheeded, and finding the people would not be denied, they reluctantly promised that Pisani should be released. It was growing late and the citizens retired to their homes. At daybreak on the following morning, a committee of the Senate repaired to the dungeon, and bringing Pisani forth escorted him to the Palace, where the Doge received him most affectionately. He accompanied Contarini to the chapel of Saint Nicholas, and after hearing mass betook himself to his house at San Fantino. On his way thither, he was met by an immense concourse of his fellow-citizens, headed by a certain Marino Corbaro, a great grumbler but a good seaman, who had served under Pisani in the capacity of pilot, and was greatly attached to him. This man ran up to the admiral waving his hat in the air and shouting at the top of his lungs: "Seize the opportunity, Pisani, to make yourself the head of the State. We are heartily tired of our incompetent rulers!" But the loyal admiral reddening with anger and mortification, and giving way to the impulse of the moment, dealt Corbaro a heavy blow with his fist, indignantly exclaiming: "How dare you thus insult me? Who told you your old commander was ready to turn traitor?" Then facing the crowd which had now become so dense that "from Saint Mark's to San Fantino there was not an unoccupied spot of ground large enough to hold a grain of millet," and raising his voice to its highest pitch, he called out: "Let him who loves Pisani cry Long live Saint Mark and the Signory!" The people obeyed; and Venice was spared the horrors of an intestine strife which must inevitably have led to its capture by the enemy, to whom we will now return.

Had the advice of the Carrarese general been followed, who, after the taking of Chioggia, desired to move at once upon Venice, it seems highly probable that the fall of the former would have preceded that of the capital by only a few hours; but, fortunately for the republic, Pietro Doria, who was in supreme command, was not possessed of talents either as an admiral or a general, and he wasted two whole days in useless preparation for an advance upon Malamocco, between which place and Chioggia there was not a gun nor a man to oppose him. Arrived at last at Malamocco, he found the Venetians drawn up in readiness to dispute his farther progress; when, giving up all idea of attempting to carry Venice by storm, he pitched his camp where he stood, and erected a battery within four miles of the Ducal Palace. This was as near as he ever got to it. Pisani and Saint Mark proved to be abler tacticians than Doria and St. George.

Aroused to action by their country's peril, the artist left his studio, the student his closet. The courts were closed, and judges and lawyers were seen organizing companies of brawny mechanics and laborers to go to the front, where Pisani was overlooking everything with untiring energy. Two wooden towers raised by Giustissimi on either side of the port of Lido, were demolished as worse than useless, and two stone ones were directed to be built in their stead; but the masons had been tampered with and no one stepped forward to obey the order, so Pisani seized a trowel himself, and crying out: "Let him who loves Saint Mark follow my example!" laid the foundation stones with his own hands. A murmur of approbation went up from the bystanders and in another instant, a thousand strong arms were at work upon the towers, which were actually completed in four days. They were mounted with cannon, and known as the castles of St. Andrew and St. Nicholas. Pisani's next work was to surround the city with a double wall, and when this was done, he felt secure against every enemy but famine, whose insidious attacks now began to be felt by all classes.

The allies seem not to have comprehended Pisani's plans until it was too late to thwart them, when, after an unsuccessful assault upon the castles, the Carrarese general retired in disgust and marched his men home, leaving Doria, who had boasted that he would "put a bit in the mouths of the horses of St. Mark," to continue the siege after his own fashion. Six weeks later the Genoese withdrew to Chioggia, where, with forty thousand men, fifty galleys, and some eight hundred boats, he concluded to await the fall of Venice by starvation, which seemed to be near at hand. Pisani, however, had formed the bold design of besieging the besiegers. With this intent, he procured a number of old hulks, which, on the night of October 30, he put in charge of a brave and enterprising officer named Giovanni Barbengo, giving him directions to tow them to the mouths of the various channels and canals leading from Chioggia, and there sink them, while he created a diversion in his favor by landing with an army at Brondolo and moving upon the enemy's works. The whole operation was completely successful, and when day dawned on the 22d, Doria, who had been congratulating himself upon having gained a great victory because he had repelled the attack of Pisani, discovered, to his alarm and chagrin, that he had been completely outwitted, and was in fact a prisoner within his own fortifications, having been "caught like a rat in a trap." For the hulks, being sunk as directed, served as foundations for the great stones with which the boats used in towing them into position had been freighted, and these being piled upon them, layer after layer, and firmly cemented with mortar, made solid barriers across all the outlets to the Adriatic, while the Venetian engineers swept the approach to them by a fort at Fossona, which they called "The Lova." It was directly opposite to the convent of Brondolo, which Doria had converted into a fortress, and mounted guns of the heaviest calibre known at that day. One of those, the Trevisan, threw a stone ball weighing 195 pounds, and a second, called Victory, one of 190 pounds, but neither could be discharged oftener than once in twenty-four hours.

Such, however, was the exposure of the Venetians during these fatiguing operations, obliged as they often were to work knee-deep in water, with the pitiless winter rains beating upon their heads, such their suffering from the pangs of hunger, that a fearful malady broke out in their camp, and, weak and dispirited, they demanded to be led back to Venice. Pisani, who now realized the fact that the courage and endurance of his men had been taxed too far, sent the most urgent messages to Zeno, who was reported to be not far distant, to hurry to his relief, at the same time solemnly assuring his command that if the Venetian fleet did not make its appearance by the 1st of January, he would on that day raise the siege of Chioggia.

The evening of December 31 arrived, "and in twenty-four hours it was to be decided whether a State, which, through a perspective of eleven centuries, could look back upon the rise and decay of so many empires, should retain or should renounce its independence." So great was the anxiety of Pisani that he passed the whole night on the battlements of Fort Lova, eagerly looking toward the sea. Daylight came, the weather was clear and the sky unclouded, and yet nothing was to be seen, and despair had almost taken possession of the brave admiral's soul, when an officer directed his attention to something that appeared like a fleecy cloud on the distant horizon. Soon another and another cloud came into view, and as the sun rose and threw his gilded rays upon the scene, it became evident that the clouds were sails—sails rising grandly over stately galleys manned by stout hearts, and guided by experienced hands, whose Venetian nationality was proclaimed by the proud old banner of St. Mark. The "sea-gulls" had flown back to their nest at last, Carlo Zeno was at hand, and "Venice the Beautiful" was saved!

Eight months after this the enemy, reduced by famine, made an unconditional surrender of his fleet and army, with all his munitions of war—a blow from which Genoa never recovered.

Pisani then devoted himself to fitting out the Venetian fleet, and on the 3d of July, 1381, left Venice with forty-seven vessels in search of the Genoese admiral, Gaspar Spinola, who was cruising in the East. After looking for him on the coast of Asia, he concluded that Spinola was retracing his steps to Genoa; and thinking it more than probable that, on his way thither, he would look into the Adriatic, he determined to shape a course for Manfredonia, that he might be near at hand should danger threaten the capital. As he approached Manfredonia, however, he became seriously ill, and although he made light of his illness, declaring "it was only a bad cold," his officers became alarmed at his extreme debility, and the flagship's anchor was no sooner down on the morning of August 3, 1381, that they insisted upon carrying him to the house of Guido da Fojan, commandant of Manfredonia, where he was at once put to bed and attended by the most eminent physicians of the place. His constitution, however, had been greatly impaired by overwork in the service of his country, even before the battle of Pola, and his three months' imprisonment, with the subsequent ten months' labor at Malamocco and in the trenches before Chioggia, had completely destroyed it. His medical advisers counselled perfect repose of mind and body, but his restless spirit could not be controlled, and he had not been an hour ashore ere he dictated a letter to the Signory, detailing his operations since his departure from Venice, and concluding with "a promise to make Genoa rue the day when she entered upon the war of Chioggia." After his secretary had sealed this despatch, he called for water, which he drank with feverish eagerness. He then took a morsel of bread, but as he was in the act of swallowing it he became deathly pale, gasped convulsively for breath, with a violent effort threw himself from the bed and stood erect, and the next instant fell in a swoon to the floor. His attendants hurried to his assistance, but their efforts to revive him were of no avail. The great admiral was dead. His remains, after embalment, were conveyed to Venice, where they lay in state for many days, during which time the senate was convoked and passed a decree "that a public funeral be given to the Great Citizen." On the day of his burial the city was draped in mourning, and no man within its precincts covered his head while the old bell of St. Mark's announced, in muffled tones, that the body of Vettore Pisani was being conveyed from San Fantino to the church of Saint Anthony, where his father's ashes already reposed. As the funeral cortege was leaving San Fantino, several persons called out that the remains of the saviour of Venice should rest nowhere but in the Ducal Chapel. The procession stopped; the crowd took up the cry, and a tumult seemed inevitable, when a gray-haired seaman, one of twelve who were carrying the bier, said, sadly, while the tears trickled down his weather-beaten cheeks, "Our good admiral is far above all earthly honors now. We, who have been faithful to him even unto death, are carrying him to his father Saint Anthony. In his arms let him rest." The people acquiesced, and the funeral moved on. After the burial service was over, the citizens gathered in knots about the streets, bewailing the loss they had sustained; and Venice on that day might have been likened to Jerusalem after the death of Maccabeus, when all the people wept and said: "Why is that great man dead who saved the people of Israel?" A magnificent mausoleum was erected over the ancestral vault at San Antonio, upon which was placed a statue of Pisani habited in the uniform of a captain general, and grasping in his right hand an ensign with two streamers surmounted by a cross.

Such were the death and burial, such the honors paid to the memory of Vettore Pisani, than whom, it may be justly said, Venice, throughout an independent existence of over a thousand years, produced no greater admiral, no better man. What nobler epitaph could a sailor desire?

FOXHALL A. PARKER.

THE remains of the late Fred Cozens, a gentleman well known to the officers of the Army and visitors at the Military Academy, and who died at Paris, March 28, were interred at West Point, New York, April 15.

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Of the sentiment in the Sandwich Islands, in regard to annexation to the United States, Mr. NORDHOFF, from whom we quoted recently, says:

As nearly as I can discover, the missionary influence is opposed to annexation, and the missionaries have still a very great influence over the people; the planters would prefer annexation to a continuance of the present condition of things; the speculators are strongly for annexation, hoping for a sudden rise in land, which I don't believe would come, for land here, as in most of California, outside of the two great agricultural valleys, is already high-priced. Finally the Ins are opposed to annexation, and the Outs either favor or reserve their opinion. The islands are almost worthless, except as a naval station. They contain but a small quantity of arable land, and both climate and soil unfit them for general culture. The sugar produce could be largely increased only on the condition of importing large numbers of coolies. A burr, worse than that which afflicts the pastures of California, abounds on the grazing lands here, and the sheep-grower must depend for his living entirely on the wool, as there is no market for mutton; and cattle are now killed and boiled down into hides and tallow, as in the days before the gold in California.

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GENERAL E. R. S. CANBY.

WE have no heart to dwell upon the sad story of the latest sacrifice to that spirit of mismanagement in Indian affairs, upon whose altars the Army has before this laid so many choice victims; and as we record the circumstances of CANBY's death we cannot resist a certain feeling of satisfaction in thinking that, for this once at least, the party of peace at any price have had the evidence of Indian treachery brought home to their own circle—one of the Peace Commissioners, an honored clergyman of the Pacific coast, falling by CANBY's side, and another barely escaping with his life. Indeed, it was the deference in CANBY to other instincts than those of the soldier which has cost us his noble life. None understood the Indian character better, and had he been independent of the associations into which he was brought by his position as a *quasi* Peace Commissioner, we doubt not he would have begun where we must now end—in making short work with Captain JACK and his band. Gen. CANBY seems to have exemplified in his own person that conflict of adverse theories which has made a muddle of our Indian management from the beginning.

None but those accustomed to the sharp surgery of war can comprehend fully the mercy which belongs to just and opportune severity—a mercy which in itself demands that upon proper occasion all sentiment should for the time be banished from the breast, that the hand may be steadied and the nerves strung for the needed operation. It is this attempt to unite the soldier and the Peace Commissioner in one person which has cost us so dearly:

Not in the battle's turmoil, fronting death,
With blade uplifted, 'mid battalions tried,
But with his sabre slumbering in its sheath,
By treachery's felon shot, the hero died.

A model soldier, gracefully he bore
The honors earned in a thrice-glorious past;
But though his brow the well-won laurel wore,
'Twas by the olive that he fell at last.

A mournful end, and yet a lesson grand:
In war and peace alike he served the state,
Proud to defend her rights with sword and hand,
Prompt at her beck, unarmed, to "stand and wait."

Duty, through life, was Canby's guiding star,
Making his path, in every peril, bright,
Whether he rode aloft on victory's car,
Or in the desert bivouacked by its light.

Rest, Christian soldier, noble patriot, rest;
With valor's bay the branch of peace we twine,
And place the double garland on thy breast,
For its twin symbols equally are thine.*

General SHERMAN, in the feeling order which accompanies this, has told in brief the story of our soldier's life, and reminded us that there was in our Army no nobler spirit than his. To those qualities which are the common virtues of the soldier, he united personal attributes giving him a place in the hearts as well as in the memories of men. All who were called to the War Department while he was on duty there will remember how the rough humor of "the great war secretary" was tempered by the gentle consideration of CANBY, a man as firm in command, as loyal to duty, as fervid in patriotism as he, and who showed us at the same time how to all these qualities might be united those in which the Secretary himself was so greatly lacking, the qualities which sweeten intercourse while they still further dignify human nature.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
WASHINGTON, D. C., April 14, 1873.
General Orders No. 3.

It again becomes the sad duty of the General to an-

* Joseph Barber in the *Daily Graphic* of April 15.

nounce to the Army the death of one of our most illustrious and most honored comrades. Brigadier-General Edward R. S. Canby, commanding the Department of the Columbia, was on Friday last, April 11, shot dead by the chief, "Jack," while he was endeavoring to mediate for the removal of the Modocs from their present rocky fastness on the northern border of California to a reservation where the tribe could be maintained and protected by the proper civil agents of the Government.

That such a life should have been sacrificed in such a cause will ever be a source of regret to his relations and friends; yet the General trusts that all good soldiers will be consoled in knowing that General Canby lost his life "on duty" and in the execution of his office, for he had been especially chosen and appointed for this delicate and dangerous trust, by reason of his well known patience and forbearance, his entire self-abnegation and fidelity to the expressed wishes of his Government, and his large experience in dealing with the savage Indians of America. He had already completed the necessary military preparations to enforce obedience to the conclusions of the Peace Commissioners, after which he seems to have accompanied them to a last conference with the savage chiefs in supposed friendly council, and there met his death by treachery outside of his military lines, but within view of the signal station. At the same time one of the Peace Commissioners was killed outright and another mortally wounded, and the third escaped unhurt. Thus perished one of the kindest and best gentlemen of this or any other country, whose social equalled his military virtues. To even sketch his Army history would pass the limits of a General Order; and it must here suffice to state that General Canby began his military career as a cadet at West Point in the summer of 1835, graduating in 1839, since which time he has continuously served thirty-eight years, passing through all the grades to major-general of volunteers and brigadier-general of the Regular Army. He served his early life with marked distinction in the Florida and Mexican wars, and the outbreak of the civil war found him on duty in New Mexico, where, after the defection of his seniors, he remained in command and defended the country successfully against a formidable inroad from the direction of Texas. Being afterwards transferred East, to a more active and important sphere, he exercised various high commands, and at the close of the civil war was in chief command of the Military Division of the West Mississippi, in which he had received a painful wound, but had the honor to capture Mobile and compel the surrender of the rebel forces of the Southwest.

Since the close of the civil war he has repeatedly been chosen for special command by reason of his superior knowledge of law and civil government, his known fidelity to the wishes of the Executive, and his chivalrous devotion to his profession, in all which his success was perfect. When fatigued by a long and laborious career, in 1869, he voluntarily consented to take command of the Department of the Columbia, where he expected to enjoy the repose he so much coveted. This Modoc difficulty arising last winter, and it being extremely desirous to end it by peaceful means, it seemed almost providential that it should have occurred within the sphere of General Canby's command. He responded to the call of his Government with alacrity, and has labored with a patience that deserved better success; but, alas! the end is different from that which he and his best friends had hoped for, and he now lies a corpse in the wild mountains of California, while the lightning flashes his requiem to the furthestmost corners of the civilized world. Though dead, the record of his fame is resplendent with noble deeds well done, and no name on our Army Register stands fairer or higher for the personal qualities that command the universal respect, honor, affection, and love of his countrymen. General Canby leaves to his country a heart-broken widow, but no children. Every honor consistent with law and usage shall be paid to his remains, full notice of which will be given as soon as his family can be consulted and arrangements concluded.

By order of General Sherman.

WM. D. WHIPPLE,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

It is useless to consider the circumstances which led to this latest difficulty with the Modocs. Whatever the merits of their cause, it should not have been forgotten that no argument can be wisely undertaken by government with rebels of any sort in arms. One thing stands out sharply and clearly in the history of our Indian difficulties; that those only are successful in dealing with them who, when war is necessary, show that they understand that war means killing—in the case of the Indians, at least, nothing but killing.

SEC. 5. And be it further enacted, that any officer of the Navy on the active list below the grade of commander, who, upon examination for promotion, shall not be found professionally qualified, shall be suspended from promotion for one year, with corresponding loss of date, when he shall be re-examined, and in case of his failure upon such re-examination, he shall be dropped from the service. [Act of July 15, 1870.]

A MORE ungenerous piece of legislation can scarcely be selected from the sixteen volumes of Statutes at Large which have accumulated upon the hands of our Government. What greater ingratitude on the part of nation than to say that its officers, who have served it faithfully a series of years—who have discharged efficiently and satisfactorily the duties required of them in lower grades, against whom the records of the Department contain no reports of misconduct or inefficiency, "shall be dropped from the service" in case of failure to pass such

an examination as may be laid out for them by a board detailed to pass upon their qualifications? Shall be dropped from the service! For what? Because in the thickest of the fight at New Orleans, Vicksburg, Mobile, Fort Fisher, on the sounds or elsewhere, they were wanting in courage or efficiency? Because, in a career of fifteen or twenty years they have served diligently, honestly and with all their ability, and have received testimonials from their superiors, of courage, sobriety, and satisfactory performance of all duties required of, or devolving upon them? No, those things are of the past. They are to be dropped because they are, in the opinion of a board, not professionally qualified for promotion; are unable to solve the theoretical questions presented to them. They have not the scholarly attainments or technical knowledge as some others who have served by the side of them, but not more honorably or efficiently. Such is their fate. An officer may have wasted his best energies in the service, may have performed daring acts of gallantry, may have kept his watch with efficiency, may have managed the steam department with skill and practical ability, and yet because he cannot pass the standard established by a board more fortunate, he must be dropped from the service.

Why drop him? Cannot such a Government as ours be more generous? Why not let him remain in the lower grade, the duties of which he has always performed satisfactorily, and it is admitted he is competent henceforth to perform? Why cast him off with a stain upon him more humiliating than the pecuniary distress which the act may involve?

It ought to be remembered that the standard for admission to the service some years since (in the Engineer Corps, for instance) was much lower than at present. Young men without the advantages of education entered the workshops at our yards, gained their practical knowledge in the dust and dirt of the engineer fire-room, and had not the opportunity, even if they had received the benefits of early education, to post themselves in the higher branches of the profession in which the more theoretical and technical members of the Corps now pride themselves.

To cast off good men under these circumstances, is, to say the least, cruel; and the law should be amended so as to retain them, when they have been fifteen or twenty years in the service, in the grade in which they have performed their duties satisfactorily, or else retire them.

The law, as it now stands, is by no means creditable to the authors of it, or to those who suggested and urged its passage. Worthy and practical men who deserved better of their country have been wronged by and fallen under it; and until they are restored to their original positions and given the support and maintenance guaranteed to them on entering the service, and which they have, in addition, earned by devotion to duty, and by personal peril throughout the nation's greatest trial, a deep stain will rest on our country's fame. The Government and the Navy will go on as usual, but the victims will suffer the pangs of ingratitude and of wrong inflicted.

PRESIDENT GRANT was waited upon, on the occasion of his last visit to New York, with a peremptory order from a *Herald* reporter to stand and deliver himself upon some subject in which the public was supposed to be interested. The President for this once succeeded, by much persistence, in escaping the infliction. General SHERMAN does not appear to have been so fortunate, as he has been twice this week subjected to the persuasive arts of the interviewer, being called out once on the Modoc question, and once on the question of war with Mexico, which is the latest newspaper sensation. After stating what troops are stationed in Texas, the General went on to say, in answer to a question as to whether the presence of seven regiments in Texas was not unusual:

"Not at all; not at all. A portion of the Ninth Cavalry, which, by the way, is a colored regiment, was stationed at Fort Clark, and under recent orders the companies have gone to Fort Concho, and the companies of the Fourth Cavalry have been ordered to Fort Clark. This gives Colonel McKenzie (a dashing cavalry officer) an opportunity to manoeuvre his regiment to the best advantage on the frontier. The Ninth Cavalry is not quite so efficient for scouting purposes as the Fourth, which explains the recent change."

"Then the War Department is not concentrating the Army in Texas?"

"By no means," promptly replied the General. "The report of the Border Commission," he continued, "merely revealed the true state of affairs along the Border, though full information had long been in possession of the State Department. Much correspondence

had preceded the labors of the Commission without effect. It was said that immediate protection was absolutely necessary along the Rio Grande, and a recommendation was made that a Volunteer mounted force, commanded by Regular officers, be raised for Border duty. The Secretary of War thought this would be too expensive; besides, it might lead to further complications the Government would be unwilling to assume. The most that can be done, as I said before, is being done with the available force. Texas, you know, has only recently been added to Sheridan's division, and this for the purpose of unity of command and movement along the whole border. His inspector-general was sent out to inspect the regiments and posts added to his command, and General Sheridan himself is now following his report up by a personal visit to see what better disposition can be made of the troops stationed in this part of the country, to prevent depredations by Indians and Mexicans on the Texas stock raisers. You can form some idea of the task when a belt of country extending from here to Chicago has to be guarded by a few regiments."

"There is no immediate danger, then, of warlike movements toward Mexico?" asked your correspondent.

"No, sir," said General Sherman, with sharp emphasis. "This is an administration of peace, and will continue so as long as President Grant lives in the White House. You correspondents are always on the *qui vive* for exciting topics, but you can't make war on Mexico with three regiments of cavalry and four of infantry."

THE Secretary of the Navy is authorized by the recent naval appropriation act to make "soundings between the western coast of the United States and Japan for scientific purposes, and for the purposes of determining the practicability of laying a telegraphic cable between those points." No money is appropriated to accomplish this service, and consequently these soundings will have to be made with the ordinary means and facilities possessed by the Navy and by some vessel or vessels on service in the squadrons. The *Tuscarora*, which is now assisting the expedition engaged under Commander SELFRIDGE in surveying the Isthmus of Darien, will, it is understood, be detailed to make the soundings across the Pacific. She can scarcely enter upon this special duty before summer, as the Darien surveys will not be completed for some time. It will be necessary for her to proceed to San Francisco for the purpose of making such special preparations and securing the requisite outfit for this special duty.

THE Secretary of War and Lieutenant-General are meeting with a most cordial reception in Texas. At San Antonio, which aspires to the dignity of a great Army-distributing depot, triumphal arches composed of the "Star Spangled Banner," laurel and flowers, were erected in the streets, and flambeau lights were planted on high poles through the principal streets, from Munger's Hotel to the San Pedro Springs City Park, a distance of nearly two miles.

We trust the Secretary will not be unmindful of the proverb, "*timeo Danaos et dona ferentes*."

THE New York Historical Society was entertained on the evening of Tuesday last, by a most interesting description of the "Wonders of the Yellowstone," given by Colonel JOHN GIBBON of the Seventh Infantry, Brevet Major-General U. S. Army. The lecturer was received by a large and very intelligent audience, who greeted him most cordially and manifested their interest in his description of this wonderful region by frequent tokens of approval.

OF the eight steamers for the Navy authorized by the act of the last session, the building of the following have been decided upon: One of 450 tons (iron) at the Navy-yard, Portsmouth. One of 2,000 tons at the Navy-yard, New York. One of 640 tons at the Navy-yard Norfolk. One of 640 tons at the Navy-yard, Boston.

THE appointment of Brevet Major-General Jeff. C. Davis, colonel Twenty-third Infantry, to the command left vacant by General Canby's death is an excellent one. The troops under his command now at the lava beds consist of five companies (B, F, G, K, and M,) of the First Cavalry, four companies of the Fourth Artillery (B, H, E, and M), two companies (E and G), of the Twelfth Infantry, and four companies of the Twenty-first Infantry. The Oregon volunteers returned home after the battle of January 21, but a number of recruits have joined the troops during last month. Battery K of the Fourth Artillery arrived April 8, and two days later Donald McKenzie and seventy Warm Spring Indians reached Colonel Mason's camp. There are four batteries of artillery and a battery of four twenty-pound howitzers, the latter in charge of Major Evan Thomas, ready for action. The signal system has been introduced, and boats placed on the lakes to facilitate communication with the different posts. The headquarters are in the lava beds. In a recent conversation General Sherman alluded to the fact that General Lyon, before the rebellion, while in command of a small detachment, had much trouble in fighting the Indians in the vicinity of the present conflict, where their ambushes were so

effective and their manner of warfare so advantageous to them that at first little progress was made. The lava beds are on the border of a small lake in which are many islands. The Indians would make such resistance as was possible, and when pressed closely they would take to their boats and paddle to the islands, where they could not be followed. After much care and trouble Lyon succeeded in building several rude boats and transporting them across the lava beds, a task not easy of performance, and they were duly launched in the lake and filled with the troops. With these boats the islands were easily reached, and the Indians were attacked from all sides and finally exterminated.

THE Light-house Board have issued in pamphlet form a list of light-houses, lighted beacons, and floating lights on the Atlantic, Gulf, and Pacific coasts of the United States, corrected up to January 1, 1873. It contains a list of the members of the Board, the limits of each of the thirteen light-house districts, their inspectors and engineers, and headquarters; also the acts for the protection of buoys and beacons of the following States: Maine, Massachusetts, New York, Rhode Island, North Carolina, and Florida. The lights of the United States are arranged in their regular geographical order from east to west, commencing at the first light nearest to the northwestern boundary, and following the sea-coast to the entrances to the sounds, bays, rivers, etc. The lights of each estuary are arranged in regular order from the sea to the head of navigation under separate references; after which the next sea-coast light will be found in order. In some instances the sea-coast lights have been repeated for convenience of reference. The name of the lights are printed as follows, viz: 1st. Primary sea-coast lights. 2d. Second sea-coast lights, and lake-coast lights. 3d. Light-ships. 4th. Sound, bay, river, and harbor lights.

The lights are numbered from 1 to 453. The first is St. Croix river light, located on Doshet's or De Mont's Island, in the river St. Croix, opposite Red Beach, Maine, and the last is Admiralty Head light, located on Rud Bluff, Whidby's Island, entrance of Puget's Sound, W. T. Commencing with the first district the name of each light is given their location, latitude north, longitude west, fog signal, description of light, time between flashes, distance visible in nautical miles, color of tower or vessels, height of tower from base to focal plane, height of light above sea level, order of lens, when established, when last rebuilt, when last refitted, compass range of visibility, and remarks for the guidance of navigators. A table of distances is given, at which objects can be seen at sea according to their respective elevations and the elevation of the eye of the observer. The book has 90 pages and an index.

THE poem before the Society of the Army of the Potomac will be delivered by General Charles C. Van Zandt of Providence, R. I., now Speaker of the Rhode Island House of Representatives. General Fred T. Locke, was appointed a member of the executive committee, and not Colonel F. T. Locke as the name was printed in our list. President Grant informs us that he will spend two days at Hartford with Governor Jewell of Connecticut, and go with the Governor to New Haven, to attend the meeting of the Potomac Society.

THE *Eastern Budget's* correspondent at St. Petersburg, writing on March 6, says: The question whether Sebastopol is to be made a naval as well as a commercial port is now settled. It has been decided to rebuild the arsenal, and also to open the harbor to trading ships, and it is hoped the new railways will greatly develop the commerce of the town. The local commission has made arrangements for rebuilding the town in such a manner as to enable it to be used both for military and commercial purposes, though the latter are, as a rule, made subsidiary to the former. It is proposed, for instance, that the ships of war should be stationed at the most favorable point of the southern bay, while the merchant ships would have to go to a more shallow part of the bay. This is not the only disadvantage to which traders will be subjected, and if the proposed arrangements are approved, it is pretty certain that Sebastopol will never become a commercial port of any importance. It is admitted even by military men that it was unnecessary to attach so much weight to the military position of Sebastopol, as Nicolaieff is so well provided with all the requirements of a secure naval harbor, that even if the Russian Navy in the Black Sea were restored to its former strength, there would be ample room for it at Nicolaieff, where, moreover, all the naval establishments and the naval administration are concentrated. The Russian Government is making preparations, too, for fortifying Balaklava and connecting it with Sebastopol by a canal.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor of the ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL does not hold himself responsible for individual expressions of opinion in communications published under this head. His purpose is to allow the largest freedom of discussion consistent with propriety and good feeling.

SENTRY'S EVENING HYMN.

GOOD-NIGHT, my friends, a fond good-night;
The sun is settling slow;
Around me evening's transient light
Spreads soft its golden glow;
While, rising from the Orient hills,
The moon attracts my sight
To shimmering waves and glinting rills—
Good-night, my friends, good-night.

Here once again, beneath this sky,
We rest from battle strife,
All weary, that we long to fly
To scenes of peaceful life:
But this deep hour is watchful time—
'Tis full of vestal light;
Alas! at morn we strive again—
Good-night, my friends, good-night.

Yet in this calm, majestic hour,
My soul finds rest once more;
Through yon pale moon's mysterious power,
I feel the joys of yore;
And as my vivid fancies roam
O'er scenes so passing bright,
Again they wait to each loved home—
"Good-night, my friends, good-night!"
JOHN B. KETCHUM.

A RECRUITING SERGEANT'S OPINION.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal.

SIR: The requirement of a recommendation from those applying to enter the Army who have a trade is a very fine theory, and as a safeguard to morality cannot be denied. But theory on paper is very good to look at; put it into practice, and see how it works.

When a good mechanic applies to enlist he either is intemperate or has committed some infraction of the civil law, and seeks to enter the Army in preference to the workhouse or jail. Take, for instance, a good carpenter, one who can easily earn \$15 or \$20 per week: The question arises what causes a man of this class to enlist in the Army for five years, and receive the meagre pay of \$13 per month. Common sense shows that the difference between \$80 and \$13 is too great, and beyond reason. He cannot enlist to better himself; some other cause must exist, or one must think the man is *non compos mentis*.

I love the service, and have been instrumental in bringing over 800 good men to its ranks; but the present rate of pay and allowances are no longer an inducement to any man to serve. It is true we get men; but who are they? The off-scourings of gin-mills and broken-down sports—men who have no stamina, and in whom no confidence can be placed. These kinds of men do a great deal of harm. They contaminate, by association, any good company, and draw down censure on old soldiers who have never heard aught but words of encouragement and praise.

The question arises, While the Army is diseased can it be cured, and once more be the Army of 1845?

Let the gentlemen of the rank give us \$16 per month, then suggest to our Commander-in-Chief the speedy issue of the new uniform that cannot be placed in second-hand shops, and from there transferred to the bodies of every beggar in the streets—i. e., respect the Army, place it on a respectable footing, so that it will no longer be looked upon as a refuge for the outcast, but an honorable position in the eyes of the people. Then you'll get good men.

RECRUITING SERGEANT.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., April 13, 1873.

ACTING COMMISSARIES OF SUBSISTENCE.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal.

SIR: Congress, in its liberal pay bill of 1870, bethought itself of a class of worthy public servants known to the line as "Acting Commissaries of Subsistence" (the staff does not know them, I believe), and in section 24 of the act of July 15, 1870, decrees that "the pay of acting assistant commissary shall be one hundred dollars in addition to pay of his rank." Now every one will certainly admit that this is paying the young officers who are filling the position of acting commissary of subsistence very liberally for their services, particularly when the honor of serving on the staff is taken into consideration in addition to the one hundred dollars, and every one knows how hard officers work to get the appointment of acting commissary of subsistence at the post at which they are serving. It is so pleasant, you know, to stand in your storehouse looking around at the well-filled shelves, and imagining yourself a merchant prince; so pleasant to have Captain Grumble tell you the meat you are furnishing is horrible, while the estimable Mrs. Grumble tells you that the raisins you sent her were short in weight and wormy besides. But then you have the honor of serving on the staff and the additional one hundred dollars left to console you for any little troubles. The honor and glory is of course the important thing, but, unfortunately, when the good Commissary-General comes to make his report to Congress at the end of the fiscal year, he says that the entire duties of supplying the Army with food is performed by him with the assistance of twenty-six officers, and is well performed. The poor acting commissary of subsistence—who does the real work, and whose "ordinary wastage" never covers his "actual wastage," and who, at the end of the year, finds himself generally out of pocket—is never mentioned. So there is but little honor in the thing,

and we have only our additional hundred dollars left to console us. Let us see how the poor acting commissary of subsistence gets it. The act of 1870 (section 24), before quoted, provides that the salary of officers "shall be paid monthly by the paymaster;" and having the authority of Congress before him, the acting commissary of subsistence boldly adds to his pay account, "For services as Acting Commissary of Subsistence, Camp _____, from January 1 to January 31, \$8.33," and presents it to the paymaster, who adjusts his spectacles, looks again at the pay account, and then tells him that in order to obtain the additional compensation to which he is entitled he must first obtain the certificate of the Commissary-General of Subsistence that the services have been performed. "But," says the acting commissary of subsistence, "won't my own certificate, or the post commander's, be sufficient?" "No," replies the man of money, "it won't do." The acting commissary of subsistence therefore thinks that he will write to the great head of his department at Washington about it, but is advised that, as it is troublesome for the great head to sign his name to the voucher of an acting commissary of subsistence every month, he (the A. C. S.) had better wait until the end of the year and then at one fell swoop get a whole hundred dollars. Acting commissary of subsistence patiently waits and labors the entire year. At last the end approaches—it is here! He writes a polite letter to the Commissary-General of Subsistence, asking that officer's certificate to the fact that he (acting commissary of subsistence) has performed staff duty during the entire fiscal year, and that he is entitled therefor to a consideration of one hundred dollars. Now his real trouble commences. After due lapse of time he receives a letter addressed, not to "Acting Commissary of Subsistence, Camp _____," but to "Lieutenant Beans, acting commissary of subsistence, Camp _____," with the postmark "Washington," and "R. M. Hanson, chief clerk," in plain letters on the envelope. Acting commissary of subsistence of course knows the letter contains his long-looked-for certificate, and forthwith invites several of his brother officers to a feast. But "alas, for human hopes!" The Commissary-General of Subsistence politely informs him that when the error of six cents which occurred in his March papers, and to which his attention has been called, and the error of ten cents in his June papers, to which his attention has also been called, is corrected, his certificate will be forwarded him. Acting commissary of subsistence goes to work, corrects his errors, and again, after the lapse of two or three months, writes the Commissary-General of Subsistence about his "additional \$100," when, much to his surprise, he receives a reply that when his September papers have passed the scrutiny of the Subsistence Bureau, his certificate will come forth, whereupon the acting commissary of subsistence gets much disgusted, and concludes to give the Government the extra compensation to which he is entitled.

Now I want to ask where the Commissary-General of Subsistence gets his authority to hold the amount provided for as extra compensation to an acting commissary of subsistence as a guarantee for the correctness of the officer's accounts, and why he could not, under the same authority, go further and hold the entire pay of the acting commissary of subsistence in the same manner. Perhaps Colonel Scott's Digest will enlighten us on the subject, for General Holt's does not. A. C. S.

GENERAL ORDERS NO. 32.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal.

SIR: Of all the orders I ever saw or heard of coming from the War Department, "General Orders No. 32, of March 15, 1873," is the most arbitrary and unjust—one denying the rights of a gentleman and citizen to Army officers; [excluding them from their right to look to legislation—a right which every citizen enjoys. In other words, no officer can influence, suggest, or ask Congressional legislation upon anything he may deem justly due him, unless he does so through the War Department, subject to the approval of one man, and he probably may take a different and objecting view of the case; at the same time, possibly, he may not be able to judge correctly of the same.

This is covered by paragraphs one and two of said order.

Paragraph three is simply an unwarrantable assumption of power, unjust, and I believe illegal, and I know insulting to any gentleman. I may take an extreme view of it, or misinterpret its meaning, but just analyze it.

During Congress any officer coming to Washington "must register his name at the Adjutant-General's office." Well and good! "Must, in addition, address a letter to the Adjutant-General of the Army reciting the purpose of and time that will be embraced by his visit." You, Captain X., and you, Lieutenant Q., both must respectfully inform the Adjutant-General's office that you came to Washington to see your father, or pay your old mother a visit, to meet old friends on business or pleasure, to be married, or to meet your sweetheart. Yes, sir—reasons which are your own, and if asked for by a man, you would knock him down for his impertinence; yet the Adjutant-General's office must know the why and the wherefor. Your private affairs are your own, but only so long as you stay away from here. Here you must give that idea up, for you no longer have the right to mind your own business and keep your own affairs; you must surrender them to the appointed custodian.

Then, too, you must inform the same office how long you intend to stay—one day, three, or a week; whether part or the whole of your leave. If you state two weeks, you must of course leave at the expiration of that time, or humbly inform the Adjutant-General's office that you remained longer than the time originally recited on account of an invitation to an entertainment or by some fair attractions, unless, indeed, you stoically refuse all inducements to remain a day or two longer, and heroically purchase your ticket and go to some other city, because you informed the Department you only intended to visit Washington for one week; it makes no difference

whether you subsequently wished to remain longer. Again, gentlemen, you must state by and "under what authority you are absent from your command or station"—whether gentleman and officer enough to be absent only with proper authority, or so poor a soldier as to take "French leave"—"absent without leave,"—and said leave winked at by your commanding officer. Of course the Department cannot know whether you are absent with or without leave.

Now, Mr. Editor, much of this is wrong. I uphold that the Department has neither business or right to inquire into an officer's private affairs, and if absent without leave, should so be reported, and if with leave, it is none of the Department's business how long he intends to remain in Washington.

The first part of the order covers all ground, prevents him from using his influence upon legislation; and here it should stop, leaving it to the officer's honor to obey the order. But no; they must put the other little watches upon him, like an unruly school-boy who cannot be trusted. You must not do so-and-so, sir; and now tell us what you are going to do, that we may see whether you do or intend to obey us!

You are an officer. Are you a gentleman, citizen, or a man of honor? CITIZEN.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 1, 1873.

We might suggest to our correspondent that there are many questions which we are obliged to answer when asked officially, which we should properly resent if prompted by personal curiosity merely. We recall the contortions of a conscientious maiden of uncertain years when called upon by the purser of an ocean steamer, in which we were fellow-passengers, to reveal the secrets of her family Bible, in accordance with the law which requires a record of the ages of all who land from foreign ports. Think, too, of the impertinences of our revenue and census laws with their constant "speering" of awkward questions! Is it not just possible, also, that the Adjutant-General would be satisfied with the statement that an officer was in Washington "on private business," or "making a social visit," without absolutely insisting that he should report the number of times he had kissed his sweetheart while there? We say this, not in defence of the order, but to relieve the perturbed spirit of our correspondent, who, as it seems to us, is somewhat unnecessarily excited on the subject. —ED. JOURNAL.

BREVETS AGAIN.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal.

SIR: I noticed in the reports of bills before Congress, towards the close of the session, something about brevets. I had an idea that all that family were dead and buried long ago, and that those bereaved had ceased to mourn their loss. It would be a great mistake to galvanize them again into existence. Any one who calmly surveyed the extravagance with which these honors were lavished "for gallant and meritorious services during the war" could not help being driven to the conclusion that they were a humbug. In many cases they really meant nothing, and their effect was injurious to discipline. Doubtless this conviction caused their abolition, and few, I believe, regret the disappearance of the incongruity. But is it advisable to decree the destruction of all evidences of faithful service and gallant deeds? Does not the old soldier prize the parchment on which his honorable discharge is written and the half chevron which he is entitled to wear on his forearm? They are his decorations, and he prizes them as such. They tell the same story whether they are displayed on the arm of the sergeant-major or modestly worn by the left file of the rear rank. Could not commissioned officers, whose faithful services or special acts of gallantry have been conspicuous, be similarly distinguished without the absurdity of awarding them fictitious rank? Would it be more absurd for a commissioned officer to wear a certain decoration on his coat-collar for every ten years' faithful service than for an enlisted man to wear a half chevron for every five? Would it be absurd to stamp on the officer's uniform, in a similar manner, a memento of any act which his heroism or valor has already stamped on the pages of his country's history? I think not. I readily admit that a fictitious addition to his rank is absurd and injurious; but I claim at the same time that a decoration which would tell in unmistakable language the story of his services or his valor is simple justice. C.

FORT H—, April 1, 1873.

M. H. CAUDERAY, of Lausanne, Switzerland, describes the construction of a small, portable, and economical galvanic battery, which, he says, will be particularly useful for purposes of military telegraphy, for the cells, which serve at the same time as the positive electromotors, consist of the used copper cases of rifle cartridges, scraped clean, and arranged in holes made in a small board. They are then charged with a layer of about half an inch of pounded and moistened sulphate of copper, and filled up nearly to the top with sawdust soaked in pure water. The negative electromotor is a small cylinder of zinc, about an eighth of an inch thick, which is passed down into the sawdust through a hole in a varnished cork, closing the aperture of the cell. A small notch must be made in one side of the cork, to allow of the escape of gas. Of course the copper cell and the zinc cylinder must have wires attached to them, for the purpose of attaching them to the opposite poles of the neighboring cells. A battery of twenty such cells, exhibited by M. Cauderay to the Society of Sciences at Lausanne, sufficed to work a portable military telegraph against a resistance of 4,000 Siemens units. The knowledge of so cheap a form of battery will be welcome to many who like to amuse themselves with experiments in galvanism.

CALIFORNIA JOE.

THE subjoined is part of General Custer's narrative of an Indian campaign in the fall of 1868. We take it from advance sheets of the *May Galaxy*:

He was a man about forty years of age, perhaps older, over six feet in height, and possessing a well proportioned frame. His head was covered with a luxuriant crop of long, almost black hair, strongly inclined to curl, and so long as to fall carelessly over his shoulders. His face, at least so much of it as was not concealed by the long, waving brown beard and moustache, was full of intelligence and pleasant to look upon. His eye was undoubtedly handsome, black and lustrous, with an expression of kindness and mildness combined. On his head was generally to be seen, whether asleep or awake, a huge sombrero or black slouch hat. A soldier's overcoat with its large circular cape, a pair of trousers with the legs tucked in the top of his long boots, usually constituted the outside make-up of the man whom I selected as chief scout. He was known by the euphonious title of "California Joe"; no other name seemed ever to have been given him, and no other name ever seemed necessary. His military armament consisted of a long breech-loading Springfield musket, from which he was inseparable, and a revolver and hunting-knife, both the latter being carried in his waist-belt. His mount completed his equipment for the field, being instead of a horse a finely-formed mule, in whose speed and endurance he had every confidence. Scouts usually prefer a good mule to a horse, and wisely too, for the reason that in making their perilous journeys, either singly or by twos or threes, celerity is one principal condition to success. The object with the scout is not to outrun or overwhelm the Indians, but to avoid both by secrecy and caution in his movements. On the plains at most seasons of the year the horse is incapable of performing long or rapid journeys without being supplied with forage on the route. This must be transported, and in the case of scouts would necessarily be transported on the back of the horse, thereby adding materially to the weight which must be carried. The mule will perform a rapid and continuous march without forage, being able to subsist on the grazing to be obtained in nearly all the valleys of the plains during the greater portion of the year. California Joe was an inveterate smoker, and was rarely seen without his stubby, dingy-looking briar-wood pipe in full blast. The endurance of his smoking powers was only surpassed by his locquacity. His pipe frequently became exhausted and required refilling, but California Joe seemed never to lack for material or disposition to carry on a conversation, principally composed of personal adventures among the Indians, episodes in mining life, or experience in overland journeying before the days of steam engines and palace cars rendered a trip across the plains a comparatively uneventful one. It was evident from the scraps of information volunteered from time to time that there was but little of the western country from the Pacific to the Missouri river with which California Joe was not intimately acquainted. He had lived in Oregon years before, and had become acquainted from time to time with most of the officers who had served on the plains or on the Pacific coast. I once inquired of him if he had ever seen General Sheridan? "What, General Sheridan? Why, bless my soul, I knowed Sheridan way up in Oregon more'n fifteen years ago, an' he wuz only a second lieutenant uv infantry. He wuz quartermaster of the foot or something uv that sort, an' I hed the contract uv furnishin' wood to the post, and, would ye b'leve it? I hed a kind of a sneakin' notion then that he'd hurt somebody of they'd ever turn him loose. Lord, but ain't he old lightenin'?" This was the man whom upon a short acquaintance I decided to appoint as chief of the scouts. This thrust of professional greatness, as the sequel will prove, was more than California Joe aspired to, or, considering some of his undeveloped traits, was equal to; but I am anticipating.

As the four detachments already referred to were to move as soon as it was dark, it was desirable that the scouts should be at once organized and assigned. So, sending for California Joe, I informed him of his promotion and what was expected of him and his men. After this official portion of the interview had been completed, it seemed proper to Joe's mind that a more intimate acquaintance between us should be cultivated, as we had never met before. His first interrogatory, addressed to me in furtherance of this idea, was frankly put as follows: "See hyar, General, in order that we hev no misunderstanding, I'd jest like to ask ye a few questions." Seeing that I had somewhat of a character to deal with, I signified my perfect willingness to be interviewed by him. "Are you an ambulance man ur a hoss man?" Pretending not to discover his meaning, I requested him to explain. "I mean do you b'leve in catchin' Injuns in ambulances or on horseback?" Still assuming ignorance, I replied, "Well, Joe, I believe in catching Indians wherever we can find them, whether they are found in ambulances or on horseback." This did not satisfy him. "That ain't what I'm drivin' at. S'pose you're after Injuns and really want to hev a tussle with 'em, would ye start after 'em on horseback, or would ye climb into an ambulance and be hauled after 'em? That's the pint I'm headin' fur." I answered that "I would prefer the method on horseback provided I really desired to catch the Indians; but if I wished them to catch me, I would adopt the ambulance system of attack." This reply seemed to give him complete satisfaction. "You've hit the nail square on the hed. I've bin with 'em on the plains whar they started out after the Injuns on wheels, jest as ef they war goin' to a town funeral in the States, an' they stood 'bout as many chances uv catchin' Injuns as a six-mule team wud uv catchin' a pack of thievin' Ki-o-tees, jest as much. Why that sort uv work is only fun for the Injuns; they don't want anything better. Ye ort to've seen how they peeped it to us, an' we a doin' nuthin' a' the time. Sum uv 'em wuz 'fraid the mules war goin' to stampeede and run off with the train an' all our forage an' grub, but that wuz impossible; fur besides the big loads uv corn

an' bacon an' baggage the wagons hed in them, thar war from eight to a dozen infantry men piled into them besides. Ye ort to hev heard the quartermaster in charge uv the train tryin' to drive the infantry men out of the wagons and git them into the fight. I 'spected he wuz an Irishman by his talk, fur he sed to them, 'Git out uv thim wagons, git out uv thim wagons; yez'll hev me tried fur disobedience uv orders fur marchin' tin min in a wagon whin I've ordhers but fur a it!'"

How long I might have been detained listening to California Joe's recitals of incidents of first campaigns, sandwiched here and there by his peculiar but generally correct ideas of how to conduct an Indian campaign properly, I do not know; time was limited, and I had to remind him of the fact to induce him to shorten the conversation. It was only deferred, however, as on every occasion thereafter California Joe would take his place at the head of the column on the march, and his nearest companion was made the receptacle of a fresh instalment of Joe's facts and opinions. His career as "chief scout" was of the briefest nature. Everything being in readiness, four scouting columns, the men having removed their sabres to prevent clanging and detection, quietly moved out of camp as soon as it was sufficiently dark, and set out in different directions. California Joe accompanied that detachment whose prospects seemed best of encountering the Indians. The rest of the camp soon afterward returned to their canvas shelter, indulging in all manner of surmises and conjectures as to the likelihood of either or all of the scouting parties meeting with success. As no tidings would probably be received in camp until a late hour of the following day, taps, the usual signal from the bugle for "lights out," found the main camp in almost complete darkness, with only here and there a stray glimmering of light from the candle of some officer's tent, who was probably reckoning in his own mind how much he was losing or perhaps gaining by not accompanying one of the scouting parties. What were the chances of success to the four detachments which had departed on this all night's ride? Next to nothing. Still, even if no Indians could be found, the expeditions would accomplish this much: they would leave their fresh trails all over the country within a circuit of twenty miles of our camp, trails which the practised eyes of the Indians would be certain to fall upon in daylight, and inform them for the first time that an effort was being made to disturb them if nothing more.

Three of the scouting columns can be disposed of now by the simple statement that they discovered no Indians, nor the remains of any camps or lodging places indicating the recent presence of a war party on any of the streams visited by them. The fourth detachment was that one which California Joe had accompanied as scout. What a feather it would be in his cap if, after the failure of the scouts accompanying the other columns to discover Indians, the party guided by him should pounce upon the savages, and by a handsome fight settle a few of the old scores charged against them!

The night was passing away uninterrupted by any such event, and but a few hours more intervened before daylight would make its appearance. The troops had been marching constantly since leaving camp; some were almost asleep in their saddles when the column was halted, and word was passed along from man to man that the advanced guard had discovered signs indicating the existence of Indians near at hand. Nothing more was necessary to dispel all sensations of sleep, and to place every member of the command on the alert. It was difficult to ascertain from the advance guard, consisting of a non-commissioned officer and a few privates, precisely what they had seen. It seemed that in the valley beyond, into which the command was about to descend, and which could be overlooked from the position the troops then held, something unusual had been seen by the leading troopers just as they had reached the crest. What this mysterious something was, or how produced, no one could tell; it appeared simply for a moment, and then only as a bright flash of light of varied colors; how far away it was impossible to determine in the heavy darkness of the night. A hasty consultation of the officers took place at the head of the column, when it was decided that in the darkness which then reigned it would be unwise to move to the attack of an enemy until something more was known of the numbers and position of the foe. As the moon would soon rise and dispel one of the obstacles to conducting a careful attack, it was determined to hold the troops in readiness to act upon a moment's notice, and at the same time send a picked party of men, under guidance of California Joe, to crawl as close to the supposed position of the Indians as possible, and gather all the information available. But where was California Joe all this time? Why was he not at the front where his services would be most likely to be in demand? Search was quietly made for him all along both flanks of the column, but on careful inquiry it seemed that he had not been seen for some hours, and then at a point many miles from that at which the halt had been ordered. This was somewhat remarkable, and admitted of no explanation—unless, perhaps, California Joe had fallen asleep during the march and been carried away from the column; but this theory gained no supporters. His absence at this particular time, when his advice and services might prove so invaluable, was regarded as most unfortunate. However, the party to approach the Indian camp was being selected when a rifle shot broke upon the stillness of the scene, sounding in the direction of the mysterious appearance which had first attracted the attention of the advanced troopers. Another moment, and the most powerful yells and screams rose in the same direction, as if a terrible conflict was taking place. Every carbine was advanced ready for action, each trigger was carefully sought, no one as yet being able to divine the cause of this sudden outcry. Within a moment who should come charging wildly up to the column, now dimly visible by the first rays of the moon, but California Joe, shouting and striking wildly to the right and left as if beset by a whole tribe of warriors. Here, then, was the solution of the mystery. Not then, but in a few hours, everything was rendered clear. Among the other traits or peculiarities

of his character, California Joe numbered an uncontrollable fondness for strong drink; it was his one great weakness—a weakness to which he could only be kept from yielding by keeping all intoxicating drink beyond his reach. It seemed, from an after development of the affair, that the sudden elevation of California Joe, unsought and unexpected as it was, to the position of chief scout, was rather too much good fortune to be borne by him in a quiet or undemonstrative manner. Such a profusion of greatness had not been thrust upon him so often as to render him secure from being affected by his preferment. At any rate he deemed the event deserving of celebration—professional duties to the contrary notwithstanding—and before proceeding on the night expedition had filled his canteen with a bountiful supply of the worst brand of whiskey, such as is only attainable on the frontier. He, perhaps, did not intend to indulge to that extent which might disable him from properly performing his duties; but in this, like many other good men whose appetites are strong r than their resolutions, he failed in his reckoning. As the liquor which he imbibed from time to time after leaving camp began to produce the natural or unnatural effect, Joe's independence greatly increased until the only part of the expedition which he recognized as at all important was California Joe. His mule, no longer restrained by his hand, gradually carried him away from the troops, until the latter were left far in the rear. This was the relative position when the halt was ordered. California Joe, having indulged in drink sufficiently for the time being, concluded that the next best thing would be a smoke; nothing would be better to cheer him on his lonely night ride. Filling his ever-present briarwood with tobacco, he next proceeded to strike a light, employing for this purpose a storm or tempest match; it was the bright and flashing colors of this which had so suddenly attracted the attention of the advance guard. No sooner was his pipe lighted than the measure of his happiness was complete, his imagination picturing him to himself, perhaps, as leading in a grand Indian fight. His mule by this time had turned toward the troops, and when California Joe set up his unearthly howls, and began his imaginary charge into an Indian village, he was carried at full speed straight to the columns, where his good fortune alone prevented him from receiving a volley before he was recognized as not an Indian. His blood was up, and all efforts to quiet or suppress him proved unavailing, until finally the officer in command was forced to bind him hand and foot, and in this condition secured him on the back of his faithful mule. In this sorry plight the chief scout continued until the return of the troops to camp, when he was transferred to the tender mercies of the guard as a prisoner for misconduct. Thus ended California Joe's career, as chief scout.

ANECDOTE OF GENERAL THAYER.

THE anecdote of the late General Sylvanus Thayer which follows was sent us some time since, but was mislaid at the time. His fortune, which was respectably large, was obtained in a somewhat singular manner, but in a way which showed the purity of this great man. Previous to the administration of General Jackson, all army officers were allowed a commission on all disbursements. The President ordered this perquisite stopped and all officers' accounts audited. It then appeared that General Thayer had never taken this percentage on the immense amount of money which had passed through his hands in the construction of forts, seawalls, harbor improvements, public buildings, etc., running through a period of many years. His accounts were adjusted, without his knowledge, at Washington, the percentage on all his expenditures for the government, amounting to a very large sum, placed to his credit, of which he was officially advised. Supposing that, by some error, this immense sum had passed to his credit, he asked leave to repair to Washington and explain it away. On his arrival, General Abert made known to him the act of the President, but this made no impression on the mind of General Thayer, and he informed General Abert that, as a matter of conscience, he could not take the money. Thus it stood, for some three years, in one of the banks in Washington, subject to his draft. Finding that he still persisted in the determination not to take it, General Abert wrote to him that the money would pass to the credit of his heirs if he did not draw it out before death, and suggested that, if his personal wants did not require it, to devote it to acts of benevolence. He accepted this version, and has distributed it with a liberal hand. Besides the many gifts of private charity, literally too numerous to name here, he has given to public institutions largely, amongst the last of which is the endowment of a chair in Dartmouth College, and establishing a handsome library in his native town.

He left in his will a provision for the income on about \$200,000 to be applied in establishing and maintaining a school in or near Braintree, his native town, in which civil engineering and kindred branches shall be specialties; the school to compare favorably with any school in the State. His relatives and those who knew him well, believe that he has never devoted any of this "gift of the government" (for so he regarded it), to his own personal uses. He has ever looked on it as money placed in his hands as a bequest, for the benefit of others. His life has ever been one of usefulness, temperance, purity, and benevolence. Looking to the Almighty for the retribution of his life, he has never joined any sect of religion, but travelled on, trying to benefit his fellow-man, and teach others to do likewise. Will God refuse to receive him?

The expensive and very beautiful sword presented some years ago to General S. Thayer by the military scholars of the first class who graduated under him as commander and educational superintendent at West Point, has been given to Colonel J. B. Moulton, his oldest nephew, and now city engineer of St. Louis, to be handed down to his youngest son, Sylvanus Thayer Moulton, and thereafter to be perpetuated in the family.

THE NATIONAL GUARD.

THE FIRST DIVISION BATTERIES.—It will be remembered that a few months since Colonel Josiah Porter, commanding Twenty-second Infantry, was detailed on the staff of Major-General Shaler as chief of artillery, he at the same time retaining the customary command of his own excellent regiment. One of the purposes, it seems, of this detail was to enable Col. Porter to further the interests of the division by applying the artillery knowledge and experience acquired in the war to the improvement of the artillery of the First division, of the N. G. S. N. Y. The first step in this direction has been accomplished, Colonel Porter having, by direction of his superior, completed a thorough inspection of the different batteries of the division, and has rendered his report. The report is most complete, and exhibits in detail the condition of these batteries, their equipments, and the dilapidated condition of their armory—the old White street city arsenal. It was Colonel Porter's intention to have inspected the men in position at their armory, and at the same time examined into the condition of the battery guns, carriages, etc., but the inferior accommodations of the city arsenal forbid any such undertaking; he was, therefore, compelled to inspect the personnel of the battery elsewhere. The artillery service of the First division comprises Batteries B, C, G, and K; the first and last being mounted batteries, the other two foot or mountain howitzers.

Battery B, Captain Keim, paraded for inspection sixty-seven men, having an aggregate of eighty-four men on the roll. The battery is handsomely and serviceably uniformed in blue frock coats and trousers with scarlet trimmings, the helmet and horsehair plume being worn. The equipments are well kept and in good condition. The sabres are United States artillery pattern, many of which have been purchased by the men at their own expense, the State not having supplied the requisite number. In the absence of the battery pieces, etc., the men at these inspections were arranged in groups and posted in the relative positions of the teams and carriages of a battery. A representation of a drill in the school of the soldier by this method was gone through with sufficient to show that the men were very well acquainted with the mechanism of the principle of field manoeuvres. Owing to the absence of horses Colonel Porter was not able, at these inspections, to ascertain the ability of the men as drivers or cannoneers. The general appearance of the men of Battery B was soldierly, and the discipline good. Keim's is a mounted battery of six guns, six caissons, with twelve sets double wheel and lead harness. The battery is without battery-wagon or forge, and the carriages shaky and rotten, and many of the ammunition boxes fitted up for a rifle battery. The harness is old, inferior, and there is not a single blanket or saddle.

Battery C, Captain Schilling, paraded for inspection fifty-three men out of sixty-five on the roll. The uniforms of the men, in pattern, is similar to those of Captain Keim's battery, also the sabres and equipments. The appearance and discipline of the men was also the same as the former battery. This command is a foot battery of four mountain howitzers, with carriages in fair condition but needing repair. The ammunition boxes are badly fitted up, and carry only eight rounds for each howitzer. The battery is without caissons or packsaddles and the usual means of transporting additional boxes of ammunition, and as such equipments are unnecessary for service in the streets of a city, the report suggests the necessity of supplying one or more carriages for this purpose. The implements and equipments are incomplete, and the men complain of being compelled to drag the guns on long marches. The battery, the report says, can be put in good condition in a short time, and at small expense.

Battery G, Lieutenant Cone commanding, paraded for inspection only twenty-four men of a roll of fifty-four. This battery is also a foot battery, and its members are uniformed U. S. pattern, neat and serviceable. The men have the old style U. S. pattern sabres, the supply of the new pattern having been turned in and these old ones issued in exchange. The men in appearance and discipline equalled the former battery. It has four mountain howitzers, the vents of two of which are not large enough to receive the friction primers. The remarks made regarding Captain Schilling's battery are applicable to this command. The battery is insufficiently manned, having run down through internal trouble, but, in the opinion of its commanding officer, can be recruited, and with proper supplies, repairs, etc., can be, at small cost, soon placed in good condition.

Battery K, Captain Heubner, paraded eighty-eight men of a roll of ninety-eight, and, in our opinion and that of the inspecting officer, is one of the best batteries in the division, if not the State. The uniforms of the men are of the U. S. pattern, are reported as neat and in good condition. The sabres and equipments are regulation pattern, in excellent condition, and in the majority of cases the property of the members. The battery at inspection made a handsome exhibition, and at drill the officers and men showed commendable proficiency. The battery is composed of four 6-pounder and two 12-pounder guns, and the remarks made regarding the carriage, etc., of the other batteries are also true of this command, or, in other words, are little better than useless for service. Colonel Porter all through his valuable report praised the men, and Heubner's battery

comes in for special praise; still, in general remarks, at the close of the report, the inspecting officer is compelled to acknowledge that after a thorough inspection he finds the First division of New York without artillery, and with an armory unfit for horses, let alone men. The State, it would seem from this report, has paid very little attention to the artillery service, and by continual neglect, even in the face of efficient and well drilled troops, has allowed the implements of war, in the shape of gun carriages and their equipments, to crumble and fall to pieces for want of proper repairs. Under such a system it would be far better to disband every battery in the service, and sell at public auction all the trucks now in the service of the State. Colonel Porter's report is exceedingly interesting, and we wish we had the space to give it in full. It shows that the four battery organizations, with one exception, are sufficiently manned; but that from the condition of guns, carriages, equipments, and utter neglect of the city and State, they are of no more practical use for the purposes for which they were organized than so many hand-carts.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR REVIEWS AND INSPECTIONS.—Adjutant-General Townsend has issued a circular in which he calls the attention of officers of the National Guard to the following communication from the Inspector-General. The instructions contained therein, he states, should receive careful consideration, and the irregularities be immediately corrected. General Morris says:

During my reviews and inspections I have observed some irregularities which should be corrected, as follows:

While passing in review, officers should cast their eyes towards the reviewing officer while saluting, in accordance with paragraph 382, General Regulations.

When a company, platoon, or section, while passing in review, is commanded by a non-commissioned officer, it is the custom in the U. S. Army for him to salute the reviewing officer in the manner prescribed for the non-commissioned officers. This rule should therefore be general in the National Guard.

The color bearer should carry his color-lance supported at the right hip, as prescribed in paragraph 1,655, General Regulations.

When the reviewing officer passes along the line, the colors should not be lowered in salute, which is forbidden in paragraph 376, General Regulations.

The face to the left about is unknown to Tactics.

First sergeants when returning to their posts in line, after reporting at dress parade, should pass through the front rank one pace, face about, and dress up to their places.

The cartridge box should be hung two inches below the waist belt, and when shoulder belts are worn, they should be crossed below the second button from the top of the centre row.

When regiments are armed with the breech-loader, the cap pouches are not required, and should be turned in the regimental quartermaster.

The cap should be worn straight, and not on the back of the head of sideways.

At ordered arms, the right thumb should be in rear of the piece and not in front of it.

While at attention, the men should keep the heels together, the eyes to the front, the hands down, and should be silent.

At the close of a parade the men should stand at attention while the officers are at the front and centre.

Commands should be given in a distinct and deliberate manner, especially within doors, where reverberation often makes rapidly pronounced words difficult to understand, and thus lead to mistakes which seem to indicate ignorance on the part of the subordinates, when the fault is with the commanding officer.

The introduction of the breech-loader makes the springing of the rammer unnecessary for inspection besides being injurious to the piece; it should therefore be omitted.

At the close of a dress parade, officers should return their swords closing on the centre, and no officer should salute an inferior with his sword.

Bayonets should be fixed for reviews and dress parades.

As these instructions have been issued before General Morris has completed even the tour of the organizations of the First and Second divisions, it is of course natural to suppose that these omissions and errors have been committed in these divisions, which compose the largest and best portion of the National Guard of the State. An ignorance of these simple rules and regulations showed remarkable lack of knowledge and instructive powers in company officers, and as far as the men are concerned, a general absence of perfect squad drills. Almost every parade of National Guard organizations illustrates these defects, and there is scarcely a single organization of the service that does not exhibit them to a greater or less extent. It seems remarkable, however, that the Inspector-General at this time should be forced to become the instructor of the National Guard, and in details, too, that should be as "household words" to every officer and man of the State service. Probably some will consider that instruction in the school of the soldier, etc., from the Inspector-General, exhibits want of dignity, and may deem this mode of pointing out official ignorance insulting. Some people have just such dispositions.

FORTY-EIGHTH INFANTRY.—In accordance with directions from General Headquarters, upon the recommendation of the regimental commander, and on account of insufficient notice, so much of G. O. No. 21, series of 1872, as vacates the commission of First Lieutenant Lawrence Robinson, Forty-eighth regiment N. G., for disobedience of the orders of the Commander-in-Chief in not appearing before the military examining board, has been rescinded.

TWELFTH INFANTRY.—This regiment (except band), Colonel John Ward commanding, is ordered to parade for drill in full-dress uniform (plume and white gloves) at the State Arsenal April 28. Assembly at 8 o'clock P. M. Tickets of admission will be issued, which can be obtained by mem-

bers, on application to their respective company commanders. The non-commissioned officers are ordered to report to the adjutant for instruction, at the regimental armory, in chasseur uniform, side arms, April 22, at 8 o'clock.

SEVENTH INFANTRY.—On Thursday evening of last week this command paraded in dress uniform, and marching order, for special review and inspection by the Inspector-General, and also for the purpose of inaugurating the new reviewing point, located on Seventeenth street, north of Union Square. The day was particularly propitious, and it seemed as if "Old Prob," after a week of storms, had suddenly ceased weeping, and kindly smiled on the "glorious Seventh." Such a day of course brought out the regiment in full strength, the companies parading after equalization twenty-two and a half files front, exclusive of a detail of one and a half files for guard duty. The regiment therefore actually paraded ten commands of twenty-four files front, making the regiment's strength just two files in excess of its average parades for drill, etc. The companies after equalization marched to the plaza or reviewing grounds, and then formed, the line extending from Broadway to Fourth avenue and beyond, the flank companies facing, so that the line formed three sides of a parallelogram faced inward, the left company occupying the centre of Fourth avenue. As a consequence the ninth company in line was forced several times to break its left four to the rear so as to allow the tenth or left company to march forward and free the car tracks from obstruction. The company in resuming its position faced about, marched several paces, and then faced to the front. The plaza cottage was crowded to excess with spectators, including Adjutant-General Rathbone, Major-Generals Shaler and Woodward, and the members of the staff, and many others in citizen's dress. Inspector-General Morris was accompanied by Colonel Blanchard, his assistant, Engineer-in-Chief General Dunn and Colonels Hamilton Fish, Jr., and Stewart, aids on the Governor's staff, all in full uniform; also Brigadier-General Varian and staff, Third brigade, in swallow-tails and heron plumes, the whole forming quite an imposing military pageant. The regiment appeared remarkably well, but some slight unsteadiness in the ranks was observed; the men, however, looked cramped. The position of the regiment rendered it necessary for the music and right company to move forward and halt before the battalion was broken into column for passage in review; and the continuous wheel in changing direction affected the company alignments; with, together this, the rough condition of the newly paved street, rendered the reviews scarcely up to the standard of the regiment. The distances, however, were very good, and the salute commendable. After the passage and change of direction, the column was broken into fours, and thus came into line. An inspection in column of companies immediately followed, and when the companies had been formed ready for inspection the colonel, instead of taking his place at the head of the column, approached the inspector, announced that the battalion was ready for inspection, and accompanied him. The right company (H) commandant failed to give the command for inspection of arms, probably considering that the battalion being at fixed bayonets rendered this command unnecessary. Yet, how were the men to know when to prepare to throw up their pieces, as the springing of rammers, now that the troops have breech-loaders, has been rendered unnecessary? It was also observed that a number of the men raised their pieces for inspection with the barrel to the left. These inspections are deemed so informal in their general character that officers and men, we observe, are very apt to overlook details. The regiment nevertheless made the handsomest parade of the season, and by its strength and soldierly bearing gave evidence that it still leads the van. The regiment, it will be remembered, has not held a battalion or wing drill this season, in consequence of the unsafe condition of its drill-room, and the absence of this practice was exhibited at this parade. Thousands of spectators were attracted to Union Square plaza on this occasion, and smiling faces and plaudits gave manifestations of the high estimation in which the regiment is held by our citizens.

THE EXAMINING BOARD.—General Orders from State Headquarters announce that the following-named officers of the National Guard are constituted a board to examine into the physical ability, moral character, capacity, attainments, and general fitness for the service of such commissioned officers as may be ordered before it, viz.: Major-General John B. Woodward, Second division; Brigadier-General Joshua M. Varian, Third brigade, First division; Brigadier-General D. M. Woodhall, Ninth brigade, Third division. The board will convene at the State Arsenal, New York city, April 29, and at such other times and place as the Commander-in-Chief may direct.

FIRST DIVISION ARMORY BILL.—We have received, through the courtesy of Hon. Chas. Blackie, member from the Thirtieth New York city Assembly district, a manuscript copy of the new bill providing for the erection of armories for the troops of the First division. The first bill introduced has been set aside, and this new bill has passed to a third reading of the Assembly and was expected to pass the House this week.

The bill provides that the Board of Supervisors shall within sixty days appoint three commissioners for the erection of armories for the First division, who shall receive no pay except their expenses. The commissioners shall each give a bond in \$50,000 for the faithful performance of their duties. The armory sites are to be selected by the commis-

sioners, subject to the approval of the supervisors, who are to have power to take and occupy public or common lands within the city and county, except Central Park. Upon the determination of the site or sites, the commissioners are authorized and directed, subject to the approval of the supervisors, to lease, or procure by purchase or agreement, the title to the land and tenements, at a price not exceeding the market value thereof, the amount due therefor to be paid by the chamberlain on the warrant of the comptroller. In case, however, the commissioners are unable to agree for the purchase of any real estate required for the purposes, the county has the right to acquire the title thereto, and in case applications shall be made therefor by the commissioners to the corporation counsel, it shall be his duty forthwith to present a petition to the Supreme Court of the First Judicial District for the appointment of three commissioners of appraisal, and acquire title to the land in the same manner as railroad companies are authorized to acquire title to land, so far as the same relates to the acquiring of property. Upon the confirmation of the report of the commissioners of appraisal, the real estate so appraised and taken shall be deemed the property of the Board of Supervisors, to be paid for by the chamberlain, upon the certificate of the comptroller. Upon obtaining the title to the property the Board of Commissioners are directed to immediately procure plans and specifications for the construction of the armories, and of all necessary accommodations and arrangements connected therewith, and upon the approval of such plans and specifications by the Board of Supervisors and the major-general commanding First division, and as soon as, and not before an appropriation shall be made by the Board of Apportionment or by the Board of Supervisors, which appropriation shall not exceed in any one year the sum of \$500,000, shall proceed with the work. The armories and drill-rooms are to be erected upon the real estate purchased or taken, and be built of such material and in such manner, in all respects, as will in the judgment of the commissioners best promote the public interest, and secure the completion of substantial and commodious edifices for the use and purposes of the troops. But until the several buildings are ready for occupancy and use, the supervisors will continue to possess the powers now enjoyed by them in relation to armories and drill-rooms. The sums necessary to pay for the purchase of the lands and the erection of the armories are to be raised by city taxation included in the usual annual tax levy of the county, but should any sum or sums be required for any of the purposes of this act, in excess of the appropriation therefor, upon the approval thereof by the Board of Supervisors of the county, the comptroller may issue revenue bonds, in anticipation of the revenues to be derived from taxation for the coming year, in like manner as such bonds are now issued, sufficient to meet such demand or expenditure. Whenever the armories are completed the building commissioners shall make, under their hands and seals, a certificate thereof, which they shall transmit to the supervisors of the county. The supervisors shall thereupon provide for furnishing, and for the care, custody, repair, and maintenance thereof, as in their judgment may seem best for the interest of the regiments occupying the same, and for the people of the county of New York. All claims for moneys due for material furnished or work performed under the provisions of this act shall be audited and allowed by the Board of Commissioners herein created. A majority of the Board of Commissioners herein created shall be deemed and considered sufficient for the transaction of any business or for the exercise of any of the duties or powers herein enjoined or conferred. The Board of Commissioners herein provided for may be removed by the mayor of the city, at his pleasure, subject, however, to the approval of the Governor of the State expressed in writing. The mayor shall in all cases communicate to the Governor, in writing, his reasons for such removal; whenever a removal is so effected, the mayor shall, upon the demand of the commissioners removed, make in writing a public statement of the reason therefor. No commissioner so removed shall be again appointed to the same office. Whenever a vacancy shall occur, from any cause, in the Board of Commissioners, the Board of Supervisors shall within thirty days thereafter fill such vacancy in the manner provided in the first section of this act.

THIRTEENTH INFANTRY.—The Brooklyn Rink on Thursday evening of last week was filled with the friends of this favorite command of the Second division, who had assembled to witness a review, inspection, and drill before Inspector-General Morris. The regiment assembled in exceedingly strong force, and by this showed that, despite proper encouragement from the powers that be, it was still one of the liveliest organizations in the State. The Thirteenth is one of the oldest organizations of the Second division, and ever since its organization has occupied an armory (city arsenal) so inadequate for meeting and drill purposes that it is really a wonder that the regiment has maintained an existence, particularly when all the younger organizations have long since been provided for. Yet its members seemed to have formed so warm an attachment for the Brooklyn City Guard that, despite every sort of discouragement, it has preserved its standard, and led in numbers every organization of the division. In classification the Thirteenth is first, and it has a backbone of reliable veteran members that still retain the old love for the regiment. In fact, as we looked upon the faces of the members of the regiment on the occasion of this parade, we made no hesitation in declaring it one of the most manly and soldierly commands in the National Guard service. It is just this sort of material every regiment requires, and it is just such element that makes reliable soldiers. The regiment has a bill before the Legislature which provides for the erection of an armory for its use, and thus far it has met considerable opposition, and at one time was so near dead that further effort seemed futile. Recently, however, by strenuous exertions, it passed the Assembly, and is now in the not over-assuring Senate, and many feel confident of its final success. This armory question is a matter of life or death to the regiment, and should this bill fail to pass, we are earnestly assured the State and the city of Brooklyn will be forced to lose by disbandment one of the best organizations of the State.

The exhibition given by the regiment on the evening of this parade, for many reasons, was most unsatisfactory to all

concerned; and a stranger would have been impressed with the belief that either the Thirteenth was poorly instructed, or that it had retrograded woefully during the past season. Yet such is not the case; and the regiment is entitled to every allowance for its blunders on this evening, and we do not propose to criticize in detail for many reasons. In the first place, General Jourdan has not been in actual command of the regiment over three or four times since his reelection, some fifteen months since; the men, therefore, had not become accustomed to his voice, which on this evening manifested want of practice. The general gives his commands in a rapid, nervous style, and is not particular about confining himself to the language of the Tactics, or troubled about omitting sometimes essential parts. It was these rapid commands that disconcerted officers and men, and the presence of spectators or something seemed to render many officers nervous, and afraid to open their mouths in giving commands. This was particularly noticeable at the drill which followed the inspection. The Rink is very deceptive in appearance and some fifty or sixty feet shorter than the State Arsenal, Brooklyn, and its acoustic properties are not the best, for drills at least; and the continuous beating of a drum during the marching was not conducive to the smoothness of movements, and added to the confusion of matters. The regiment formed with a dress parade, without equalization of companies. During this ceremony the battalion appeared to excellent advantage, and in general steadiness and execution of the manual never did better. The review, however, with fronts unequalized, the companies averaging from twelve to thirty files, was not a success, several of the companies becoming jammed for want of room in front of the reviewing officer; the commandant of the strongest company (I), through apparent thoughtlessness, saluted, *en tierce*, and the non-commissioned staff saluting in marching in review contrary to the Tactics. The regiment was afterwards inspected by wing, its size rendering it impossible to form it into open column of companies. Many of the companies had every member on the roll present, and the total strength of the regiment, band included, was 450 men. General Dakin and staff, Fifth brigade, were in attendance and accompanied the Inspector-General.

TWENTY-THIRD INFANTRY.—The Brooklyn Rink on Tuesday evening was filled to its utmost capacity with an assemblage who had gathered to witness the military progress of this command. The occasion was the parade of the regiment before Inspector-General Morris of the State, and we feel assured this officer was perfectly satisfied with the condition of the regiment, militarily and otherwise. The regiment paraded eight commands, having an equalization of twenty files, some of which, however, were not full, and looked neat and trim. The Twenty-third has a similar classification of membership as the Seventh, but the majority of its members are quite young men, therefore enthusiastic and attentive. The expected occupancy by this command this summer of the finest armory building in the State has had good effect on the regiment, and is rapidly filling its ranks with the best portion of Brooklyn young men, and the regiment exhibit constantly most excellent progress. The military proceedings on this occasion opened with a dress parade, the regiment occupying an almost indescribable position on the south or Dekalb avenue side of the building, the battalion forming partially an open square, the main line and colors occupying the centre of the room. The battalion would have appeared to far better advantage had it been spread out and taken position near the sides of the room; nor did we see any necessity for the color company entering the line by the left flank. The dress parade, however, was very fairly performed, but we have seen the regiment do better, for this ceremony is a specialty with the Twenty-third. After the dress parade the regiment broke into column of fours, marched around the room, formed company, marched down the centre in good style, and immediately thereafter assumed a position, with the main body fronting to the south, for review. The size of the battalion, however, rendered perfection in so small a space an impossibility, and, as a military undertaking, a perfect farce. Colonel Ward, however, did the best he could under the circumstances by stationing the band opposite the reviewing point, massing the battalion in column of fours on the right, and then forming company. The first company passed in good style; the second got past, but closed on the first as that company attempted a wheel, and after making a half wheel, broke into column of fours, the other companies following in similar style, and the left actually being forced to break into fours immediately in front of the reviewing officer. The regiment or its commander was not to blame for this confusion, the size of the battalion and the limited space offering every excuse. The inspection which followed was very satisfactory, although the colonel omitted to order the officers and sergeants to their posts at its conclusion. The battalion was reduced to eight files, for drill, and its movements showed that it had done some work this winter. This drill was one of the best we have seen this season, the men being remarkably attentive and steady. There was no confusion, and only in one instance did the battalion become temporarily disconcerted. The battalion deserves much praise for its creditable drill, and won numerous compliments from the many military gentlemen present, and plaudits from the spectators. At the close the members and their friends enjoyed a social dance.

—The Eighth parade in full-dress uniform on Tompkins Square, for drill, on Wednesday next, at 2 P. M.

VARIOUS ITEMS.

—THE Seventh drills on Tompkins Square April 25 and May 5, at 4:30 P. M. The companies are working hard at target practice.

—THE New York Tribune, in a recent article in opposition to providing armories for the Brooklyn regiments, called the National Guard "Sybaritic Home Guards." For this are we soldiers.

—THE bill authorizing the sale of the State armories at West Point, Ogdensburg, Dunkirk, Canandaigua, Corning, and Schoharie, and the armory lot at Malone, passed the Senate on Monday.

—ARRANGEMENTS are in progress for a great rifle meeting, open to all England, to be held at Gloucester on the 13th and 14th of May, when prizes of the value of £1,000 will be offered for competition with the government Snider rifle.

—THE Second division, we learn, will parade for review by the Governor or the Adjutant-General of the State about the 15th of next month at the Prospect Park parade ground. The Fifth brigade propose to occupy the morning in drilling.

—THE Twenty-eighth, Colonel Burger, was ordered to assemble for inspection at the State Arsenal, Brooklyn, on Thursday evening, for inspection by General Morris. The regiment will give a reception at its armory on Monday evening.

—THE Fourteenth was ordered to be inspected on Friday evening at the arsenal, Brooklyn. The First Cavalry will assemble at the State Arsenal, New York, for same purpose, on Monday evening, and the Twenty-second on the 25th at its armory.

—THE Fifth's field music, Drum-Major Berchet, gave an exhibition and reception at the regimental armory on Monday evening, which in every way was a perfect success. Berchet and his followers are an "institution" in Colonel Spencer's numerous command.

—THE Forty-seventh, of Brooklyn, propose making a parade in New York May 6. The Seventy-first, we learn, will receive the regiment, and the Forty-seventh will reciprocate in the fall. The regiment had a successful drill on Wednesday evening in Austen's street firing at its armory.

—CAPTAIN BIRD W. SPENCER, having been commissioned, has assumed command of Company K, Ninth regiment. The company is ordered to parade in full uniform, white cross and body belts, white gloves, knapsacks, overcoats rolled, on Saturday, April 19, to proceed to Passaic City, N. J., to celebrate the third anniversary of the organization of the company. Roll-call at the armory at 10 A. M.

—THE Seventy-first companies, in consideration of the maxim that "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy," have recently introduced social reunions, termed "stag parties" and "stag hunts." Company I indulges on the evening of April 23 and Company G April 25, on which latter occasion Adjutant Graham will receive a testimonial. The Seventy-first will close the drill season on the evening previous.

—THE Thirteenth Infantry, on the occasion of the recent inspection by the Inspector-General, paraded 447 men present, 17 absent—making an aggregate of 464 men. Company A paraded 27 men—2 absent; B, 43—all present; C, 37—2 absent; D, 41—2 absent; E, 51—1 absent; F, 30—4 absent; G (City Guard), 62—3 absent; H, 43—3 absent; I, 68—none absent; Company K, none present, and same number of absentees. Yet, this is the regiment which, by bad usage, the city, county, and State are trying to kill.

—THE Thirty-second Infantry, Colonel Roehr, on Monday evening gave a reception at its regimental armory, Brooklyn, E. D., this being its fifth annual social gathering. The drill and company rooms were handsomely decorated, the attendance exceedingly large, and officers and men vied with each other in extending generous hospitality to their numerous friends. Good music, dancing, and hearty sociability was the tenor of the evening, and the reception in every way was undoubtedly one of the most successful ever before undertaken by the regiment.

—IN accordance with a resolution of the Board of Supervisors, Major-General S.aler, commanding the First division, in a circular has requested the commandants of brigades, batteries, and troops to forward to division headquarters at once a report showing the numerical strength of each organization, and giving in detail the number of commissioned officers, non-commissioned officers, musicians, and privates. This looks as if the supervisors meant business in the way of petitioning General Headquarters for a reduction of the First division force.

—THE Veterans of the Twenty-third held their regular quarterly meeting at the Pierrepont House, Brooklyn, on Tuesday evening, Colonel Everdell, presiding. There was a goodly attendance, and after the transaction of some routine business the Veterans adjourned and partook of a social banquet prepared for the occasion, at which no set speeches or regular toasts were delivered; Colonels Everdell, Ward, and some few others on call, merely responding briefly and to the point. The gathering was exceedingly pleasant, and the association shows remarkable progress for one so young.

FOREIGN ITEMS.

DURING the German Emperor's presence in St. Petersburg it is proposed to perform a monster tattoo, similar to that executed at Berlin at the Three Emperors' fête. Fifteen hundred military bandmen are to take part in the performance.

THE Committee of the British Junior Naval Professional Association have offered a prize of fifty guineas for the best essay on "The Manœuvres and System of Tactics which fleets of ships of modern construction should adopt to develop the powers of the ram, heavy artillery, torpedoes, etc., in an action in the open sea."

ONE of the old British line-of-battle screw steamers, the *Hood*, is being fitted up in Chatham, England dockyard as a torpedo-ship, for use by the Royal Engineers in carrying on their torpedo operations in the Medway. She will accommodate about 200 officers and men of the Royal Engineers, the whole of whom will be stationed on board.

MAJOR V. D. MAJENDIE, R. A., who has just submitted to the Royal Artillery Institution the result of a series of experiments on the spontaneous ignition of oiled cotton waste and similar materials, concludes that oiled waste should always be regarded with suspicion as liable to spontaneous combustion under moderately elevated temperature.

THE Indian government having resolved to establish a reserve of a thousand horses for the army, for the encouragement of breeders an exhibition of English and Colonial horses will be held at Calcutta early in 1874, and two others in the North-Western Provinces and the Panjab, at which prizes ranging from 3,000 rs. to 1,000 rs. will be contested for, government having a right of purchasing any horses exhibited at a price fixed by the exhibitor beforehand.

COMMANDER HARVEY, R. N., has perfected an important improvement in torpedoes, the adaptation of an electrical explosive arrangement in addition to the present mechanical appliances for explosion by contact. The Austrian government, among others, has given orders for these torpedoes now in course of execution. Application has been made to the British Admiralty for a trial of the Electric Harvey torpedo; but their response has not yet been made known.

ENGLAND spends annually nearly ten millions sterling upon her navy. France less than five, the United States under four, and Italy scarcely one and a half; but this ceremony is explained by the fact that the Italian naval establishment is in a frightful state of neglect. Considerable additions are now being made to the arsenals of Venice and Spezia; a naval school has recently been opened at Genoa, and it is anticipated that within a few years the Italian navy will only be inferior to those of England and the United States.

WE find the following information given in a return moved for by the Duke of Richmond, and issued with the British Parliamentary papers:

Number of non-commissioned officers and rank and file on January 1, 1872.....	183,620
Number of recruits joined during 1872.....	17,791
Number of deserters during 1872.....	5,861
Number of deserters rejoined during 1872.....	1,855
Number of men discharged during 1872.....	11,578

Of these, 3,894 were medically condemned, 497 were convicted for felony, and 1,197 were incorrigible bad characters.

Number of deaths.....	2,549
Number of non-commissioned officers and rank and file on December 31, 1872.....	182,568

This return does not account for the total increase and decrease of the army during 1872. There are no means of separating the deserters who rejoined voluntarily from those who were arrested.

A PAPER on "Ventilation of Ships," presented by Dr. Rattray, R. N., was read at the meeting of the Medico-Chirurgical Society on January 14, and referred in the *London Lancet* of February 8. He stated that in the "innermost parts" (wherever they may be) of some of "Her Majesty's" ships 33 volumes of carbonic acid in the 1,000 exist. Parkes tells us that carbonic acid "produces fatal results when the amount reaches from 50 to 100 per 1,000 volumes; and at an amount much below this, 15 or 20 per 1,000, it produces, in some persons at any rate, severe headache." Angus Smith finds "that 30 volumes per 1,000 caused great feebleness of the circulation, with, usually, slowness of the heart's action; the respirations were, on the contrary, quickened, but were sometimes gasping." And we are told that ammonia from the urine, sulphuretted hydrogen and sulphide of ammonia from the bilge, and other noxious matters, solid and gaseous, are all constantly rising to intensify the mischief.

THE Danish army is founded upon general conscription. Until 1848 only the peasant class were under an obligation to serve in the ranks. With the introduction of a free charter the compulsory service in the army was extended to all classes of subjects, tempered only by the right of substituting another able-bodied man. When, in 1867, the new organization of the army was carried through by General Raasløff, the term of actual service was considerably shortened. At the same time the right of obtaining a substitute was abolished, and since then every young man, whatever his social standing, has had to drill as a recruit and to serve out his full time of four years in the army. The infantry of about 30,000, with the ordinary additions for the cavalry (five regiments, of three squadrons each), the artillery, the corps of miners and sappers, etc., brings the whole land force to something above 40,000 in a population of hardly 2,000,000. Remington guns of an improved pattern having been served out to all the men, with a sufficient stock in reserve. The service in the navy is compulsory, like that in the land force, the conscripts from the coast, living as fishermen or serving in the merchant navy, being levied for that sort of military service. The fleet is to consist of "twelve first-class vessels" and "an appropriate num-

ber of smaller craft," leaving to the ideas of the time being to decide what are first-class ships and what is "appropriate" for the smaller craft. Reckoning in the first-class three-plated frigates with side batteries, our four-plated batteries with revolving towers, and a reconstructed wooden line-of-battle ship, leaves to provide four first-class vessels, and these are to be of the *Glatton* type. The second and third classes are to consist of fast sailing vessels for vanguard or tender and despatch service, with gunboats and torpedo boats. It will easily be seen that the whole military scheme has an exclusively defensive character.

THE British squadron in the China Seas has, we believe, says the *Broad Arrow*, much improved in moral conduct since the Japanese student in America, who is the author of an essay on Christianity, left his native country. But it is well, sometimes, to see ourselves as others see us, even though the likeness be not over-flattering. The Japanese author writes: "There is no mystery in the fact that Christianity has not made any considerable progress beyond Europe, when we know that those Christians who go out to foreign countries behave themselves worse than the heathen, or at least no better than they. First of all they are the slaves of Mammon, go to houses of ill-repute, swear without almost any cause, insult the natives, kick and beat them, and behave as haughtily as Julius Caesar. Moreover, these things take place on Sunday more than on any other day of the week, because on other days they have things of more material interest to attend to. If there were no such mock Christians Christianity would have made its progress smooth. It loses credit through their conduct, and its progress is thus obstructed. Woe to the betrayers of the Master. If he should appear in this world at this time, he could scarcely recognize his own people."

THE British committee on high angle and vertical fire from rifled howitzers and mortars have recommended the adoption of an 8-inch howitzer, with a twist of 1 in 16 calibres, and throwing a shell of 180 lb., for permanent works of defence as well as for siege purposes. Colonel S. E. Gordon, C. B., Royal Artillery, Director of Artillery Studies at Woolwich, has just addressed a paper to the Royal Artillery Institution, entitled "Curved Fire for Breaching Unseen Defences," which states that a few rounds fired at his request at Shoeburyness, from a 64-pounder breech-loading gun, at an elevation of 15 degrees, with a charge of powder one-fourth the shell's weight, obtained a range of 900 yards, with a high trajectory. Colonel Gordon submits in tabular form the ranges to be obtained with certain charges at different degrees of elevation, and suggests that similar tables should be prepared for all kinds of guns likely to be employed in future siege operations; also that artillerymen should be trained in making up cartridges for and working the guns with reduced charges, so as to enable them to pitch a shell when required into an enemy's fortress with something like accuracy. As it is only occasionally that there is a martello tower to be destroyed, he proposes that the gunners should practice at canvas targets hidden behind earthen screens.

THE Berlin correspondent of the *London Times* writes: After the long spell of mutual animosity between the two races, it is refreshing to see the favorable impression produced upon both French and Germans by the prospect of a speedy evacuation. Apart from selfish agitators, more bent upon promoting their own interests than the welfare of their country, the feeling seems to be as general in France as it is in Germany; and what is equally satisfactory with the geographical spread of this conciliatory mood, is the fact of its being shared by high and low, by Emperor and President, as well as by their nations. His German Majesty has himself taken such an active part in bringing the late negotiations to a happy end, that an hour after the signature had been affixed at Berlin, M. Thiers dispatched to this city a courteous recognition to the following effect: "Je remercie Sa Majesté d'avoir contribué à cicatriser les plaies de la guerre, et à apaiser les passions qui ont récemment désolé le monde." This telegram the Marquis de Gontaut-Biron had the pleasure of communicating to his Majesty immediately upon receipt, the Emperor honoring with his presence a *fête* at the French embassy that very evening. Prince Bismarck and the other diplomats who had taken part in the good work of the afternoon expressed themselves with equal courtesy on the co-operation of their French colleagues and the mutual advantage both countries would derive from the restoration of regular relations. A few days later an eminent speaker of the German Parliament thanked Prince Bismarck for the skill and patriotism evinced in settling with France thus satisfactorily, and thereby paving the way to reconciliation—a sentiment which was warmly repeated by the President of the House, amid the loud applause of all present. Prince Bismarck, in a few words of thanks, significantly said that such an acknowledgment on such an occasion was a cure for his failing powers and a stimulant to further exertion.

THE account of an interview with Bazaine, which appeared in the *London Times*, has not done the cause of the Marshal much good in France. One of the serious charges brought against the ex-Commander-in-Chief of the Army of the Rhine, was the fact, that he allowed his eagles and standards to fall into the hands of the enemy and to be carried in triumph to Berlin. The defence of the Marshal is that he gave directions that they should be buried, but this assertion and others are denied by the officers named by Bazaine; Generals Soleille, Coffinieres, and Jaras; and Colonel de Girels declare that this order was never given. General Jaras confines himself to a simple protestation, because that is all that the War Minister will permit him to say in the newspapers. The assertion made by the Marshal, that he had only 80,000 fighting men, is met by the following counter-statement: "At the last interview which took place between the negotiators, the Prussian General de Stieble had occasion to mention the arrangements which had been made for sending the prisoners to Germany. He first spoke of the officers, and then added, 'As for 80,000 troops,' General Jaras interrupted him, and said, '80,000! Why,

there are 146,000.' 'Yes,' replied the Prussian General, 'counting the sick wounded.' 'Not at all,' returned General Jaras; 'there are 126,000 fighting men, without counting the men in hospital, and 160,000 men in all.' 'Is it possible?' exclaimed General Stieble, with the greatest astonishment. And, in fact, in the Prussian camp the opinion was that we were numerically inferior to the Germans, etc." The statement made by Bazaine, that he could not hold out any longer is also contradicted. It is said that on October 27, the *Intendant General* announced to the Marshal that there still existed four days' provisions, and that if the town were searched it would be easy to find food for four more days; at any rate there remained 13,000 horses. The Marshal replied—"What has that to do with me? If you had provisions for a fortnight, that would not alter the position. Negotiations have commenced, and we must finish them and get out of this."

M. O. L. L. U. S.

At a stated meeting of the commandery of the State of Massachusetts, held at the Parker House, School street, on Wednesday evening, April 2, the following named candidates were duly elected companions of the Order of the First-class: Second Lieutenant George M. Townsend, late Teath Light Battery Massachusetts Volunteers Artillery, Boston; Captain Isaac F. Kingsbury, late Twenty-third Volunteer Infantry, colonel and assistant adjutant-general State of Massachusetts, Newton (Chestnut Hill), Mass.; Captain Rufus A. White, late Eleventh Massachusetts Volunteers Infantry, Charlestown, Mass.

The following named companions were elect representatives and alternates to represent the commandery at the Congress of the Orders to be held in Philadelphia on Tuesday next following 9th day of April next: Major-General Charles Devens, Jr., Majors James B. Bell, J. Henry Sleeper, representatives; Colonel William V. Hutchings; Commander William Roberts; Brigadier-General Alfred P. Rockwell, alternates.

JAS. B. BELL, Recorder.

JOHN WATTS DE PEYSTER, JR., son of General J. Watts de Peyster, died on Saturday, April 12, at the residence of his parents, at No. 59 East Twenty-first street, New York. The deceased served during the early part of the Rebellion as volunteer aid-de-camp on the staff of his cousin, General Philip Kearney, and was especially commended for his gallantry at the battle of Williamsburg. General Kearney, in his report of the battle, says: "My volunteer aide, Watts de Peyster, bore himself handsomely in this his first action;" and in private letters General Kearney said he did not say more on account of his close relationship. General Hooker, in recommending young de Peyster for brevet, said "he was greatly distinguished for gallantry and good conduct at the battle of Williamsburg, and no less remarked for his coolness and courage at the battle of Chancellorsville." At the battle of Chancellorsville he was chief of artillery of the Second Division, Sixth Corps, with the rank of major. For his gallantry on that and other occasions, on recommendation of Major-General Hooker, he was promoted successively to be lieutenant-colonel and colonel. Major de Peyster had been confined to his home for some months past, and, being a victim to consumption, his sudden demise was not unexpected. The event has cast a gloom over a large circle of friends and acquaintances, who deeply sympathize with the family of deceased in their severe affliction.

AN appropriation of \$70,000, included in the late Miscellaneous Appropriation bill for the avowed purpose of enabling the Treasury Department to investigate claims and fraudulent demands against the government, is intended, the *Herald* asserts, for the purchase of a new batch of archives of the defunct Confederacy. The \$75,000 invested in Pickett's now historical trunks, though not successfully placed in a political point of view, is alleged at the Treasury to have been already repaid in the conclusive evidence discovered concerning the transactions of cotton claimants.

LETTERS IN THE NEW YORK POST-OFFICE.

THE following is a list of letters remaining in the New York Post-office on the date given. These letters are retained in the New York Office for one month from date, after which they are sent to the Dead-Letter Office, Washington:

APRIL 4.	
Brown, J., Colonel.	Rawlings, T., Captain.
Tails, Lieutenant.	Richardson, Benjamin, Captain.
Gibson, J., Colonel.	Swift, Geo., Captain.
Matthews, J. K., Captain.	Treichle, Chas., Colonel.
Owen, W. H., Colonel.	Thomson, Cliff, Major.
Pavy, Captain.	Sloane, E. A., Captain.
Rathcamp, Henry, Captain.	Verhart, J., Captain.
Wilson, Geo., Captain.	
APRIL 11.	
Back, Thos., Captain.	Stuart, C., Captain.
Skilings, Geo. E., Lieutenant.	Wright, J. G., Colonel.

MARRIED.

[Announcements of Marriages should be paid for at the rate of FIFTY CENTS each.]

MORTON—EASTON.—On the 8th inst., at the residence of the bride's father, in Philadelphia, Lieutenant CHAS. MORTON, Third Cavalry, to Miss BESSIE L. EASTON, daughter of General Easton, Q. M. Department. (No cards.) Western papers please copy.

HALLORAN—FOUR.—At San Francisco, Cal., March 16, 1873, by Rev. Dr. Laythrop, First Lieutenant JAMES HALLORAN, 12th Infantry, to HENRIETTA FOUR, of San Francisco, California. (No cards.)

DIED.

Brief announcements will be inserted under this head without charge. Obituary notices and resolutions should be paid for at the rate of two cents a word, unless it is intended to leave the question of their insertion to the discretion of the editor.

SMITH.—At Camp McDowell, Arizona Territory, on the morning of March 26, 1873, CHARLES FRANCIS, infant son of the late Captain John L. and Mary A. Smith, aged six months.